

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of August 11, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is
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Source: CNMI Department of Public
Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE



Mudslide

A mudslide touched buried a remote Taiwan village, leaving at least 400 people missing.

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'So What?'

Perez Hilton is not sorry. Anyway, why would he be sorry?

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4 civilians rescue two stranded swimmers. PAGE 2
Transfer of San Vicente, Tinian polling places OK'd. PAGE 3

US Senate urged to hold off vote on submerged lands bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the CNMI executive and legisla-

tive leaders' joint position on Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's submerged lands bill, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives on a 416-0 vote in

July, Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo insists the submerged lands issue is better dealt with through Section 902 talks.

Weeks after his resolution calling

for 902 talks on the submerged lands bill was junked, Crisostimo (D-Saipan) turned to U.S. senators, asking them to

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La Moda Isla is now Star Sands Plaza

Building owner takes over due to original mall shareholders' debt

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Effective yesterday, La Moda Isla became the Star Sands Plaza after the building's owner—Ace Investment Group LLC—took over the mall because of unpaid building rent by the previous shareholders.

Ace Investment Group LLC, which is doing business as Star Sands Plaza, said the mall is not closing.

A statement purportedly issued by the previous mall management and shareholders stated that "La Moda is closing its doors," saying "shareholders decided not to continue funding in this dire tourism decline from swine flu, Korean won depreciation and other uncertainties."

It also said the "shareholders are work-

See LA MODA on Page 4



A tourist walks by the façade of the La Moda Isla, a souvenir and gift shop in Garapan.

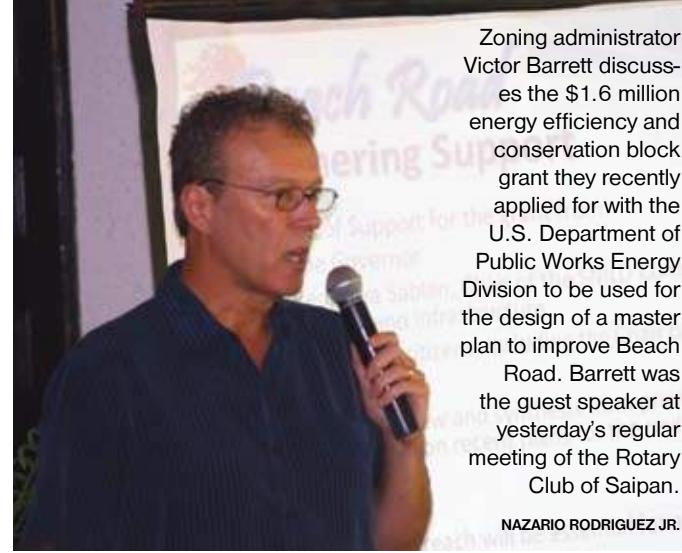
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Zoning lays out master plan for Beach Road

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is currently developing a master plan to convert Beach Road into a state-of-the-art thoroughfare to maximize its capac-

See ZONING on Page 4



Zoning administrator Victor Barrett discusses the \$1.6 million energy efficiency and conservation block grant they recently applied for with the U.S. Department of Public Works Energy Division to be used for the design of a master plan to improve Beach

Road. Barrett was the guest speaker at yesterday's regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

House reconsiders election initiative at the last minute

If ratified, winning governor will have 5-year term

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

On the last day of filing candidates and initiatives, the House of Representatives reconsidered and passed a Senate initiative that will amend the CNMI Constitution to synchronize the local general election with the federal election.

If certified today by the Commonwealth Election Commission board, then Senate Legisla-

tive Initiative 16-11 will be on the November ballot for voter ratification, along with the proposed inclusion of the Legislature in the application of the Open Government Act.

If SLI 16-11 is ratified by CNMI voters on Nov. 7, the winning governor and lieutenant governor, senators and mayors will have five-year terms instead of the regular four-year

See HOUSE on Page 4

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Local

'Pens and books as a form of tribute to Dr. Inos'

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By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saiplantribune.com
REPORTER

Public school principals will conduct a special ceremony as a tribute to their mentor and inspiration, Dr. Rita A. Inos, who they said pushed to improve the islands' public school system.

On Saturday, school administrators and hundreds of support staff are expected to pay their last respects for the former Education Commissioner when her body is transferred from the hospital to the Mount Carmel Cathedral for public viewing.

Alfred Ada, the principals' representative, confirmed yesterday that the special program is tentatively scheduled at 8:30am or as soon as the public viewing starts.

School leaders have agreed to wear black and white shirts during the ceremony and they will welcome the late educator with the song Seasons in the Sand.

Ada said a "symbolization rite" will immediately take place, during which educators will offer things related to Dr. Inos that epitomize her dedication to her craft.

"We will begin with our offering of the Chamorro language dictionary, which reflects Dr. Inos' passion for language and cultural preservation...and pens, which symbolizes her as a lifelong-learner and passionate educator," Ada told Saipan Tribune.

The Public School System has over a thousand employees

and Ada said most intend to see the former education chief.

"We're hoping that a majority will join us in paying this special tribute to Dr. Inos who demonstrated a genuine concern for education," he said.

Because Inos was well-received and recognized not only in the Commonwealth but in the United States and the Pacific region, a replica of a globe will also be offered as a symbol of her being a regional leader.

Dr. Inos had been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a leader in education and for her commitment to the No Child Left Behind mandate. She was also cited by the Pacific Regional Educational Laboratory in Hawaii for her untiring support and involvement in educational goals and programs for children.

Principals and administrators will also offer Inos' favorite roses, in two special colors.

"We decided to offer her white roses symbolizing the purity of her heart and intentions...and yellow roses for maintaining relationships," Ada said.

The Board of Education is also expected to offer a resolution to Inos' family for the valuable contributions of the late

educator to the system.

Inos' remains are scheduled to be flown to Rota Saturday afternoon for a Mass and interment on Aug. 18 at 1:30pm.

Ada recalled how Inos touched his heart several years back.

"Dr. Inos came and stayed in my class for an activity. I was touched because, although the invitation was impromptu...she really came and witnessed the event," Ada said, adding that this 1998 incident made its mark on him as a classroom teacher then.

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School principal Charlotte Camacho said yesterday that Inos was a very dynamic leader, approachable, and supportive of everybody.

"She always inspired us. All her words were very encouraging and inspiring," she said.

Inos was Education Commissioner from June 1998 to December 2005.

4 civilians rescue two stranded swimmers

Four civilians rescued two swimmers who were swept by big waves and strong current outside the reef of Sugar Dock Saturday afternoon.

The swimmers—Jerry N. Diaz, 28, and a certain Eric—were brought to the beach safely, according to Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong yesterday.

Tarkong said the rescuers were Alvin Iglesias, his son Dion, and two friends, Joe Reyes and Keith Torres.

Tarkong said DPS Central dispatched emergency personnel to Sugar Dock on Saturday at 5:56pm after receiving a report about two stranded swimmers.

When police officers arrived at Sugar Dock, the civilians had already brought the swimmers to the beach.

Police learned that Diaz had been boogie boarding inside the reef by the Chalan Kanoa Beach Club when a strong current swept him outside the reef.

Diaz attempted several times to paddle back into the reef, but the waves were too big and the current too strong.

Eric, another surfer, came to help by pulling Diaz away from the reef and the big waves.

A fishing boat operated by Iglesias was on its way to Sugar Dock when it passed by Diaz and Eric, who were still in the rough waters. The two waved their hands in the air for help.

Iglesias maneuvered his boat toward the stranded swimmers. Iglesias' three passengers assisted in pulling the swimmers out of the water and safely into the boat. (Ferdie dela Torre)

August 13, 2009
Rota Round House
6:00pm-8:00pm

August 14, 2009
Multi-Purpose Center Saipan
6:00pm-8:00pm

August 17, 2009
Tinian Elementary School
6:00pm-8:00pm

August 18, 2009
Kagman High School Cafeteria
6:00pm-8:00pm

For more information, please e-mail kilili@mail.house.gov or call 323-2647/8.

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Face to Face with U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan is here to listen. Come share your thoughts on issues that matter to you and the community. It's about working together for a better and stronger Commonwealth.

Transfer of San Vicente, Tinian polling places OK'd

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission will transfer two major regular polling sites after finding out that these places were not in compliance with the mandates of the Constitution.

CEC executive director Robert Guerrero yesterday disclosed that San Vicente Elementary School will no longer be a polling place in November after the board approved the transfer to

the Northern Marianas College campus.

Guerrero said this was done because the SVES site was not in compliance with Public Law 15-52, which requires a 300 feet security perimeter. This means the polling site should be secured 300 feet on all sides.

"The transfer is for security purposes...we need to ensure the protection and safety of voters during election," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the area was the only site on Saipan

that was cited for violating the election code.

On Tinian, residents will be advised to vote at the Tinian Elementary School. The old site was the island's youth center, which was also deemed non-compliant with requirements.

Guerrero said 18 polling places were approved for use in this year's election. Only San Vicente and the Tinian site will be removed from the list of old sites.

Yesterday morning, represen-

tatives of various political parties on island met and discussed the ballot format to be used during the Nov. 7 election.

Saipan Tribune learned that GOP's Dave Attao and Skep Palacios, Covenant Party chair Greg Camacho, Democratic Party's Jesse Torres, and independent mayoralty candidate Angello Villagomez have agreed to recommend to the commissioners the old ballot format: the two-page document will bear the GOP and Covenant banners on the first page while Democrat and Independent col-

ors will be on the next page.

Guerrero said the board will

adopt today the recommended format. The lottery to determine who among the party's candidates will appear on the ballots first is scheduled on Thursday.

Guerrero said the commission intends to print 18,000 ballots for both the regular and absentee voters. However, he said nothing has been finalized with the vendor yet due to the unavailability of funds for this purpose.

The appropriation bill that contained the \$182,000 budget for the Election Commission was vetoed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial due to a technicality.

Guerrero is optimistic, how-

ever, the Fitial administration and the Legislature "will come out with something this week" for the agency's needs.

"We're working continuously with the administration and the Legislature on the needed funding...and we're hopeful on their actions," he said.

The contract for the ballot printing must be signed by early next month to ensure that documents will be received by Sept. 15.

CEC is projecting that it will exceed its over-15,000 target voters for this year's election.

There are now over 14,000 registered voters, with still over a month before the end of the registration period on Sept. 18.

CNMI public schools need principals

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System needs school administrators for the opening of the school year in September, according to the latest job announcement posted by its Human Resources Office.

Qualified applicants will be assigned to various schools on three islands and will receive an annual maximum salary of \$60,000.

As of last week, *Saipan Tribune* learned that 25 school administrators have yet to get the needed certification for their positions and are still serving in acting capacities.

So far, only 12 school administrators—eight principals and four vice principals—are fully certified and have met all requirements set by the Board of Education.

The 25 non-certified administrators are composed of 12 acting principals and 13 acting vice principals.

In the job announcement posted yesterday, PSS indicated the need to fill various principal

positions.

It specifically announces the opening of principal I positions from Aug. 3 to 21, this year.

Under this category, PSS requires applicants to have a master's degree with a major in educational administration or related field, with valid administration certification, and with at least six years' work experience—three years as full time teacher and three years as school administrator or related leadership management field.

To qualify for the principal II position, the applicant must have at least seven years of service—three years as a full time teacher and four years as a school administrator. This is besides obtaining the basic requirement of a master's degree and valid certifications.

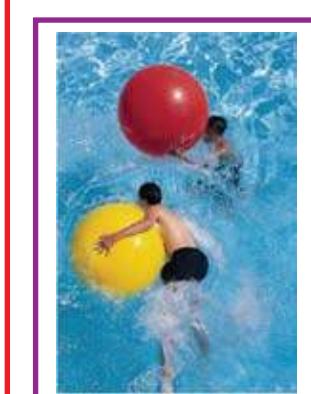
PSS says it is also looking to fill principal III positions, which will receive the maximum compensation, provided applicants have the needed degree, certification, and at least nine years of working experience—three years as a full time teacher and six years as a school administrator.

All principal positions require passing the mandated Praxis 1 and 2 exams.

Just like with teachers and counselors, PSS enforces a compensation plan for administrators, with salaries based on the certifications they have obtained and their years of service.

School administrators, to become fully certified, must have a degree or higher, pass Praxis tests, and must have completed all courses to get an administrator's certification, which is composed of seven different "certificates."

Majority of these "courses" are offered in online universities while other sessions are being offered by PSS, which brings in experts from the United States.



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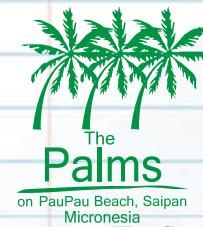
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Man, 38, guilty of sexually abusing 2 boys

The Superior Court has found a 38-year-old man guilty of sexually abusing two boys in 2006.

At a bench trial, Presiding Judge Robert Naraja said he finds the CNMI government did prove beyond reasonable doubt that Arnold Lee Kapileo Atalig committed two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree.

Naraja set Atalig's sentencing for Nov. 19, 2009.

Assistant attorney general

Brian Gallagher prosecuted the case. Lawyer Robert Myers represented the defendant.

According to the prosecution, Atalig sexually abused a boy on April 16, 2006. In March 2006, the defendant sexually abused another minor.

The incidents happened in Chalan Lau Lau.

The Office of the Attorney General filed the case in April 2006. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



SWEARING IN
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial swears in board members of the Commonwealth Election Commission on Saturday, Aug. 8, 2009, at the commission's offices on Capital Hill. Commission members will be taking charge of the general elections scheduled this Nov. 7, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LA MODA

From Page 1

ing with the building owner to allow him to continue business staff and improvements made by La Moda Isla under his building name."

Alex Youn, president of Ace Investment Group, said they are now making the "transition," including the computer system in the building.

He said the sign "La Moda

Isla" on the building's facade will be taken down soon, and only the sign "Star Sands Plaza" will remain.

"I have no intention of closing the mall. The building owner is just taking over the facility but we're not taking any shares or legal obligations. The shareholders didn't pay the building rent and we sued them for that," Youn told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

Youn was referring to the suit filed by Ace Investment Group

against Lacita Corp. for failing to make regular payments on the rent of land and facilities last year and early this year.

Ace Investment Group is asking the court to order Lacita Corp. to grant them relief of \$358,830 for the unpaid rent, CUC power bill, bond and credit card fee; for pre- and post-judgment interest of 12 percent per annum; for an order to evict the defendants from the premises and for the plaintiff's recovery of the premises; and for double the minimum rent for the

duration the defendants held the premises.

Previous La Moda Isla co-owners Del Benson was off island yesterday; Lino Fritz and Playford Ramsey could not be reached for comment.

In January, *Saipan Tribune* published a news feature about the December opening of La Moda Isla. In that article, Ramsey and Benson said in an interview that federalization will further hurt the remaining businesses in the CNMI and will

scare away new investors.

The mall opened at a time when retail establishments are either cutting back on operations or closing their business altogether because of the economic crunch.

"There's optimism in down times," Benson said at that time.

He said the strategic location of La Moda Isla—near DFS Galleria and ABC Store in the tourist district of Garapan—is a major factor in the decision to open the store. Its soft opening

was on Dec. 21.

The 12,000-square-foot La Isla Moda is a standout among the existing shopping centers in the CNMI by combining shopping experience with cultural exploration, where shoppers are treated to giant visual images of the CNMI's and the region's historic past, as well as the natural beauty of the islands, including underwater and above water photography of Benson.

Souvenir items and other merchandise are either locally made or supplied by local entities.

HOUSE

From Page 1

term, while those with two-year terms like House members will have three years.

Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero yesterday confirmed that his office received SLI 16-11 between 5:45pm and 6:30pm on Monday.

"If it gets certified by the board Wednesday, then it will be on the ballot this November," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sen. Jude U. Hofsneider's SLI 16-11 passed the Senate on Dec. 4, 2008, on a 6-0 vote, with three members absent.

In January this year, the House rejected the initiative, but on Monday afternoon, the House reconsidered it on a 14-3 vote.

Only 17 members of the 20-member House were present during the session. Of those present, three members voted "no" on the motion to pass SLI 16-11: Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Ed Salas (R-Saipan), and Rep. Victor Hocog (Ind-Rota).

Sablan asked her colleagues to hold a public hearing on the initiative, particularly to hear people's concerns about giving politicians an additional one year in office.

"Few seemed interested in that," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan, who is running for a Senate seat, hopes that people "think very hard about who they vote for."

Hofsneider, author of SLI 16-11, said yesterday that, since the CNMI now has another election—that for the delegate to the U.S. Congress, which coincides with the federal elections—the

Commonwealth now has an election every year, which will be too costly to bear.

The first election for the delegate position in November 2008 cost some \$87,000.

"It's not practical to have an election every year. We lawmakers feel it's only proper to have the regular general election coincide with the federal elections. But let's ask the people if they approve of it. I am happy we're getting this out to the public. It's not final yet until the voters ratify it," Hofsneider said in a phone interview.

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) described the passage of SLI 16-11 as one of the most important measures they acted on during Monday afternoon's session.

After the House passed the initiative at around 3pm, it was transmitted to the Senate

clerk for filing with the Commonwealth Election Commission, which received it after office hours.

The Senate legislative initiative calls for the CNMI regular general election to be held in even-numbered years, instead of odd-numbered years.

The legislative initiative does not require the governor's approval but it has to be ratified by voters.

Under SLI 16-11, the CNMI's regular general election will be held on Tuesday after the first Monday in November in even-numbered years.

If the initiative is ratified this November, the election will be held in 2012 and every two years after that.

Those officials elected in 2009 who serve two-year terms, such as House members, municipal council members, and

Board of Education members, will serve three years.

The governor and lieutenant governor, senators, and mayors elected in 2009 will serve five-year terms, instead of four-year terms.

The proposal follows the enactment of a federal law granting the Northern Marianas a non-voting delegate to the U.S. Congress. Current law says the CNMI government has to conduct a separate election for the delegate office in even-numbered years, in addition to holding regular general election in odd-numbered years, as provided in the Commonwealth Constitution.

The initiative says by not holding an election every year, the money saved could be used for other programs and services in need of additional funds.

Another version of the pro-

posal is pending in the House of Representatives. The House version, authored by Rep. Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), would postpone the 2011 CNMI election to 2012 to coincide with the national election, and then hold it every two years afterwards.

The House initiative seeks shorter terms for some officials to be elected this year, and longer terms for others. Under the initiative, the next governor and lieutenant governor, as well as the senators and mayors elected in 2009, will serve three-year terms, instead of four-year terms. Meanwhile, the terms of the representatives, municipal council members, and Board of Education members would be extended from two years to three years.

The terms for the respective offices will revert to their regular length after the 2012 election.

US

From Page 1

"refrain" from voting on Sablan's H.R. 934.

Crisostimo wrote letters dated Aug. 10 to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee chair Sen. Jeff Bingaman, and Senate Committee on Foreign Relations chair Richard Lugar.

He requests that the U.S. Senate "refrain from voting on H.R. 934 until such time that the (CNMI) government and the federal government hold formal negotiations to address the above concerns."

In his letter, he said while he's pleased to know that H.R. 934 would convey three miles of submerged land to the CNMI, the 200-mile exclusive economic zone should be under local jurisdiction.

"My biggest concern should H.R. 934 be signed into law is the potential liability the CNMI may assume in regards to the unexploded ordnance and toxic chemicals the U.S. military has left on our shores and in our waters. Without a concerted cleanup effort by the federal government, the CNMI may be left to dispose of these materials and face possible environmental citations and

fines. Furthermore, the costs for this cleanup are way beyond our local government's financial means," he said.

But Crisostimo's Joint Senate Resolution 16-12 which seeks 902 talks on submerged lands bill, was already defeated in June. Only one other senator voted "yes" on his resolution.

Section 902 of the CNMI's Covenant with the U.S. allows for periodic consultations be-

tween the Commonwealth and federal governments "on all matters affecting the relationship between them." But the Fitial administration is not keen on 902 talks.

Days after the defeat of Crisostimo's resolution, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) came up with a joint position supporting Sablan's submerged lands

bill pending at that time in the U.S. Congress.

Shortly thereafter, the U.S. House of Representatives resoundingly approved Sablan's bill which local leaders said is a "victory for the people of the CNMI."

The bill's passage is also a milestone in Commonwealth history, being the first legislation introduced by Sablan, the CNMI's first representative to the U.S. Congress.

ZONING

From Page 1

ity for economic growth.

Zoning administrator Victor Barrett said they have just submitted a proposal with the U.S. Department of Public Works Energy Division for an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant worth \$1.6 million.

Barrett said the plan is not only to accommodate all the transportation needs of the island but to also allocate a portion of the road from the

American Memorial Park down to the Pacific Islands Club for non-car use.

Barrett said this grant will fund a new island-style "smart code" and would "address the concerns in the current code that I believe brought about the move to suspend, and create a master plan for Beach Road that will allow for many transportation options beyond the car."

The project is called the "Beach Road Corridor Improvement Plan Toward A Car-Free Island Life."

Public presentations will be

held in all villages in the next few days.

The first presentation is on Aug. 19 at 6pm at the Kagman High School.

"The idea is more than a plan. This is going to be a deliverable planning and zoning," Barrett said.

Zoning is open to making changes in the plan and wants people to voice out their concerns.

Barrett said a sustainable and long-term plan is needed on Saipan to make Beach Road a more healthful environment.

"Once you start planning, some magical things will happen," said Barrett, who was the guest speaker during the regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Barrett said this is part of the initiative to reduce the use of energy.

He said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Rep. Tina Sablan have expressed their support for this project.

"We want to create something beneficial to the islands for a long time," he said.

The design could be done in 12 months but its implementation would depend on the funding, which would have to be determined upon the completion of the master plan.

"Of course, this will be subject to change, but the overall goal is the engineering part of the plan, which needs massive manpower," he said.

Barrett said the environmental, economic and cultural aspects of the island would be incorporated into a land-use plan and the Zoning Board is the agency that would implement

the master plan.

"We want to develop a flexible zoning code," he added.

When asked to comment on the proposed bill to suspend the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law filed by Rep. Stanley Torres, Barrett said he is open to all discussions.

But so far, he said, there has been no invitation yet from Torres or any member of the House for such a discussion or meeting.

He said a suspension may create some problem and the Zoning Board does not want a

CUC engineer sues CPA, CUC for injuries in explosion

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Commonwealth Utilities Corp. engineer is suing the Commonwealth Ports Authority and CUC for the severe injuries he suffered two years ago when a high voltage cable at the Saipan airport exploded.

Roberto Malate, an engineer at CUC's Power Division, sued CPA and CUC yesterday for negligence and reckless infliction of emotional distress. His wife, Maria Theresa Malate, joined in the lawsuit.

The Malate couple, through the O'Connor law firm, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order the defendants to pay them damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

In his complaint, Malate said

Miles Rodriguez is named student council president

Miles Rodriguez was named the new president of the Associated Students of the Northern Marianas College after the departure of Ivan Mereb, who was asked to quit the post for failing to meet the requirement under its bylaws.

Prior to her appointment, Rodriguez was the only officer in office after three others resigned early this year.

Rodriguez confirmed her appointment yesterday and vowed to continue the activities initiated by Mereb's leadership.

According to Perry Inos Jr., NMC coordinator for student activities and leadership, Rodriguez will serve until new officers are selected.

The college is now seeking applicants for the upcoming ASNMC election on Sept. 14. To be an ASNMC officer, the

the incident happened on Aug. 20, 2007, when then CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero called him up at 4am and told him to proceed to CPA to assist then CPA executive director Stanley Torres Jr. about a problem with the transformer at the airport.

Malate determined that the problem was with CPA's high voltage underground cable, not the transformer. He recommended that CPA hire a contractor to fix the faulty high voltage cable. As Malate was about to leave, Torres asked him to identify the faulty cable again. They returned to the pad mount transformer to again identify which cable had a problem.

During this testing, the high voltage cable exploded, injuring Malate. He sustained second

and third degree burns in the face, ears, neck, arms, and hands.

After two days at the Commonwealth Health Center, Malate was referred by CHC and the Workers' Compensation Commission to a hospital in the Philippines for further treatment.

The Malate couple left for the Philippines on Aug. 22, 2007. CHC and WCC, however, failed to inform the hospital of Malate's arrival. As a result, the couple had to wait for a long period inside an ambulance as there was no available attending physician and no room reserved for him.

At the same time, CHC only provided for the air ticket. No funding was provided for hospital costs, medicine and food and housing expenses. Malate had to pay the hos-

pital with cash up front. He also had to buy his own medical supplies.

Malate later asked to be transferred to another hospital so he could use his own health insurance to pay for the medical expenses.

After being transferred, he underwent three surgeries. He used his personal health insurance to pay 80 percent of the medical expenses and his credit card to pay the 20 percent. He paid for his own housing and food expenses.

For the first trip, WCC reimbursed him only the 20 percent payment, but did not pay for his other expenses.

Malate returned to Saipan on Oct. 13, 2007, because of lack of funds and WCC's non-payment of the compression garment

needed for his rehabilitation.

Malate went back to the Philippines from Dec. 8 to 15, 2007, for compression garment fitting. Contractures, however, developed in Malate's left hand. In that second trip, WCC paid for the compression garment while CUC provided the ticket, food and housing expenses.

Malate returned to work at CUC in December 2007.

He then reviewed CPA's electrical wiring diagram and saw two sources of power to the electrical cable he was testing when it exploded. It turned out that power was turned off from only one source, leaving the other power source on, causing the explosion.

Malate made a third trip to Philippines on March 6, 2008,

to April 2, 2008, where he underwent skin grafting and surgery to release the contractures that developed in his left hand.

WCC provided food and housing allowance and reimbursed him only the 20 percent payment. WCC did not pay for the other expenses. Malate incurred 80 percent medical expenses, credit card charges and interest.

The fourth medical trip to the Philippines was on Sept. 8 to 17, 2008. CHC or WCC paid for the air tickets, hospital expenses, food, and housing. He paid the doctor's fees, but was not reimbursed by WCC.

On June 12, 2009, he went to see a doctor at CHC who again recommended off-island treatment for his left hand.



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Judge dismisses Kiyu's lawsuit against Fund

FOR SENATOR



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The federal court dismissed yesterday former senator Thomas P. Villagomez's lawsuit against the NMI Retirement Fund.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ruled that Villagomez has not exhausted his administrative remedies.

Accordingly, Munson said, the court does not have jurisdiction over Villagomez's complaint.

"Requiring administrative exhaustion here preserves the efficacy and independence of the Retirement Fund system," the judge said.

Villagomez had sued the Fund for allegedly refusing to pay his retirement benefits. Villagomez had named as co-defendants Fund administrator Mark A. Aguron, the Fund board of trustees, and 10 unnamed persons.

Villagomez worked for the CNMI for 18 years as a congressman, senator, and as Senate legislative assistant.

In a written decision issued yesterday, Munson dismissed the complaint without prejudice or finality.

In granting the motion to dismiss, Munson said Villagomez concedes that he did not file an

administrative appeal as required by the Fund Administrative Rules and Regulations but argues that exhaustion is futile. However, the judge said, Villagomez fails to state why exhaustion is futile.

Munson said an appeal of the board's decision to deny the benefits is not futile because it would allow the agency to reconsider the policy, compile a factual record, and use their expertise to resolve the dispute.

The judge said the complaint alleges a constitutional deprivation of property without due process of law. "However, Mr. Villagomez has 'not been deprived of procedural due process until [he is] deprived of adequate process,'" Munson said.

Moreover, he said, lawyers for the Fund and the board both indicated at the hearing that the parties are in the process of resolving the dispute via internal procedures. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

US nears 75 pct. target for breastfeeding

Cindy Turner-Maffei of the Health Children Project says the United States is almost on its way to achieving its national target level of 75 percent among breastfeeding mothers.

"In general, the U.S. has a high rate. We are now at about 74 percent but some states have higher than that like California, which has 90 percent," she said.

Maffei said they have yet to determine the breastfeeding rate in the CNMI but based on the WIC program's monthly statistical report, there are a total of 139 who exclusively breastfeed, 220 who partially breastfeed, and 359 who are categorized as "any breastfed."

"What I've heard is that many babies get supplemental feeding, which is not recommended," she said.

Maffei and fellow HCP trainer Barbara O'Connor are currently in town for the five-day Lactation Counselor Certificate Training Program on Aug. 10-14, attended by close to 50 health care providers and early childhood educators in the CNMI.

The entire staff of the Women Infants and Children program of the Department of Public Health is also participating in the training at the Tanapag Head Start.

The training is funded by the World Health Organization and the United Nations International Children's Fund.

Most of the participants are from Saipan. Others are from Guam, Tinian, and Rota.

Maffei encourages all mothers to practice breastfeeding because it lessens diseases among infants. The use of formula milk, she added, makes children more susceptible to diabetes.

She said participants are receptive to the breastfeeding program but they just don't know how to spread the word to the community. (*Nazario Rodriguez Jr.*)

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 COMMUNITY BRIEFS
Town hall meeting at Rota Roundhouse

The first town hall meeting hosted by Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) on Rota tomorrow, Aug. 13, will be held at the Roundhouse from 6pm to 8pm, instead of the Sinapalo Elementary School Cafeteria as announced earlier.

All residents of Rota are encouraged to attend this informative community forum at the Roundhouse and ask questions directly to their first U.S. congressman.

Sablan will be discussing his first months representing the Northern Mariana Islands in the Washington, taking questions about issues important to NMI residents, and asking for public input on legislation currently before Congress.

Some of the issues expected to be discussed are expanding educational opportunities for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, the transition to federal immigration, energy alternatives for the Commonwealth, environmental protection, and the services that the Congressman's office can provide directly to constituents. (PR)

MHS reminder for freshmen

Incoming freshmen of the Marianas High School are being reminded to turn in their "School Entrance Health Certificate" (blue health immunization certificate) to the MHS Registrar's Office between 8am-4pm, Mondays-Fridays. For questions and concerns, call 237-3206. (PR)

SVES sets Open House, parent orientation

The San Vicente Elementary School is inviting all parents to its upcoming Open House (Parent Orientation) on Friday, Sept. 4, from 9am to 12pm. Parents will have the opportunity to meet their child's teacher and receive the requested supply list for the coming school year. Orientations will be held by grade level in the following classrooms:

Kindergarten	I-24	4th Grade	B-7
1st Grade	K-26	5th Grade	A-2
2nd Grade	E-14	6th Grade	A-9
3rd Grade	K-31		

Casting call for new FOA play

Friends of the Arts is holding auditions for their first show of the 2009-2010 season, Arsenic and Old Lace. The cast includes parts for 14 adults—11 men and 3 women. The show is scheduled to be performed on Oct. 16, 17, 23, 24, and 25.

The play is a comedy that involves a theater-hating drama critic who finds himself having to deal with his crazy, homicidal family—two spinster aunts who have taken to poisoning lonely old men, an uncle that believes he is Teddy Roosevelt, and a murderous brother—and the local police.

Auditions will be held this Thursday and Friday, Aug. 13 and 14, from 6pm to 8pm and again on Saturday, Aug. 15, from 2pm to 4pm in the Napu Room at PIC. For more information and to keep up on all Friends of the Arts news and events, join the "Friends of the Arts, Saipan" page on Facebook or contact us by email at FOA.Saipan@gmail.com. (PR)

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SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE LOADING BRIDGES
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-09

2nd AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Loading Bridges at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing preventive maintenance services for four (4) loading bridges. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, June 26, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Loading Bridges at the Saipan International Airport". One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 PM, LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Copies of approved surety companies and the bid bond form may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director on July 22, 2009.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. These requirements apply to contracts where the Consultant provides designated professional services to the Authority; i.e. appraisers, architects, equipment maintenance, messengers, construction managers, etc. and the total contract price is less than \$250,000. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director on July 22, 2009.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: August 7, 2009

Tonga transport minister resigns over ferry loss

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga (AP)—Tonga's minister of transport resigned Tuesday, six days after a state-owned ferry sank, leaving 93 people missing in one of the South Pacific nation's biggest tragedies.

Minister Paul Karalus announced his resignation as the government appointed a royal commission of inquiry into the sinking, amid claims the 36-year-old ferry *Princess Ashika* was unseaworthy and should not have been sailing.

Karalus said as his ministry is the subject of the commission, he had to resign to ensure there was "a full, complete and transparent" investigation into the Aug. 5 sinking.

Because the commission reports to Tonga's Privy Council,

which Karalus serves on as a Cabinet minister, he said "from a legal perspective" he had to step aside. Karalus was appointed to his position as transport minister by the nation's King, George Tupou V.

Karalus told reporters he expects to be questioned in the inquiry.

"We carried out our duties with due care and diligence," he said in a statement.

No survivors have been found since an initial rescue of 54 people and the recovery of two bodies after the ferry sank.

Karalus and Tongan Prime Minister Feleti Sevele have consistently said the vessel was fully seaworthy, fully certified for service and met all international maritime

standards.

The cause of the disaster is not yet known. Survivors described the ferry as rocking violently from side to side and waves breaking into the lower deck before it went under, though officials said weather conditions were mild.

On Monday, the ship's captain, Maka Tuputupu, blamed the sinking on rusted loading ramps that allowed water into the boat, and said the Tongan government should take responsibility because it knew there were problems with the ship.

"The government knows everything about the boat; they know because they surveyed the boat," he said.

Tuputupu said waves were only three feet (one meter)

high when the ferry foundered, adding he was the last person off—escaping through a hatch as the ship sank.

But Sevele rejected Tuputupu's claims, placing responsibility for the tragedy on the captain. "(If) I was a captain worth my salt and if I knew that the vessel wasn't seaworthy, I would not sail it," he said.

It is the captain who makes the final decision to head out to sea, not the state-owned shipping company, Shipping Corp. of Polynesia, Sevele said.

Bad weather continued Tuesday in the search area, about 54 miles (86 kilometers) from the capital, Nuku'alofa, suspending the search by navy divers for the sunken ferry for a second day.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of

Soledad Takai Tenorio “Daidai”

We cordially invite all our relatives, friends and business associates to join us in prayers for our beloved mother and grandmother on the First Anniversary of her death.

Nightly rosary will be prayed at Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning on Saturday, August 15, 2009 through Sunday, August 23, 2009 at 7:00PM.

Mass of Intention will be celebrated at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 4:00PM on Monday, August 24, 2009. Dinner will be served immediately after the service at Joeten Daidai Social Hall.

Si Yu’us Ma’ase

Annie T./Jesus R. Sablan & Family

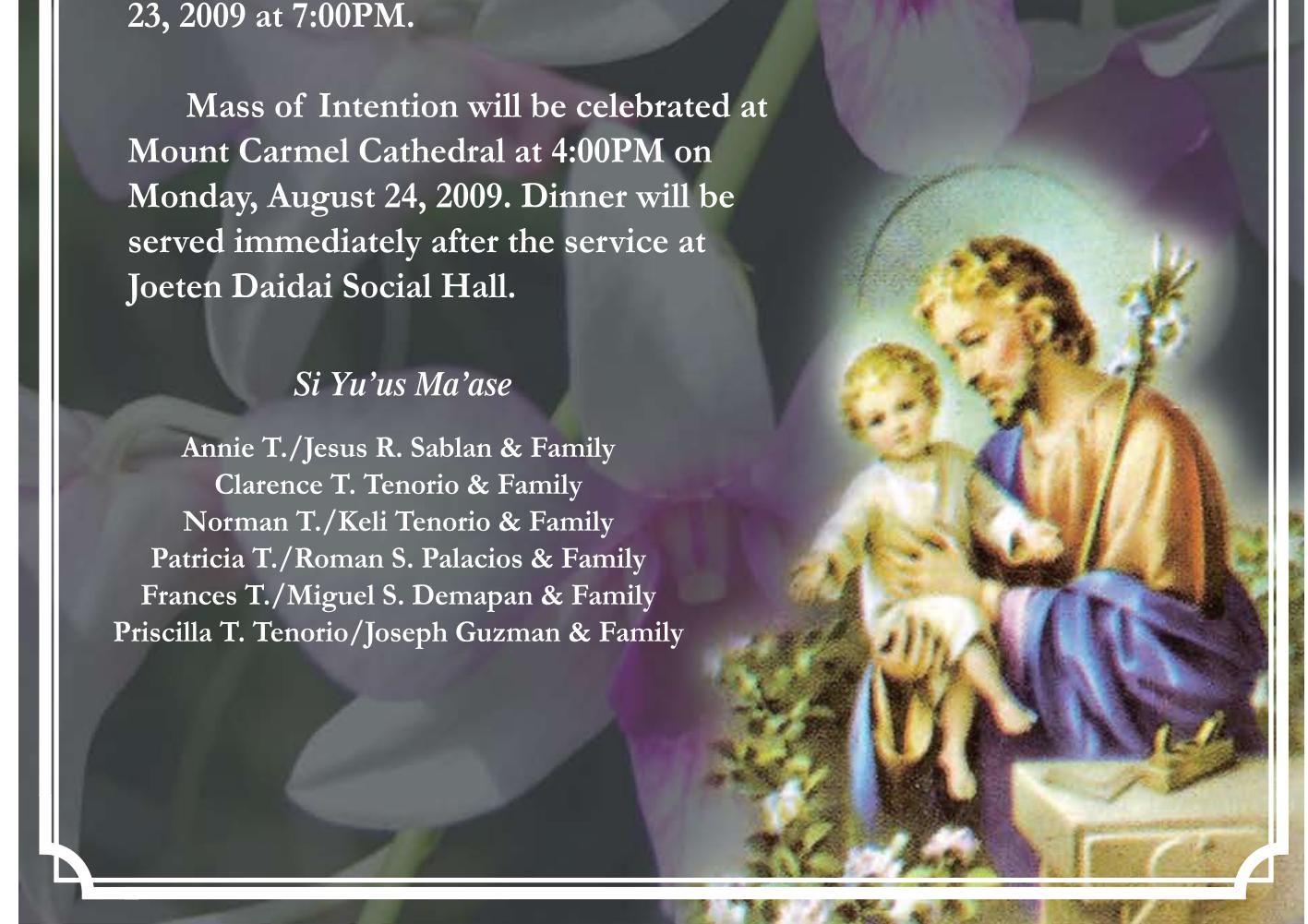
Clarence T. Tenorio & Family

Norman T./Keli Tenorio & Family

Patricia T./Roman S. Palacios & Family

Frances T./Miguel S. Demapan & Family

Priscilla T. Tenorio/Joseph Guzman & Family



Saipan seaport holds port evac exercise

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan seaport is preparing to take proper actions to effectively evacuate the port, according to a port security specialist and lead exercise planner of the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam.

Hassan O. Rosell of the USCG Contingency Planning and Force Readiness Department, said the recent bomb threat on Tinian Port illustrates the potential for incidents in all ports that could require a rapid yet safe evacuation of employees, passengers and recreational users in the port.

"That's why this exercise is important," said Rosell referring to the daylong Port Evacuation Table Top Exercise held at

the Hyatt Regency Saipan Friday.

The focus of the exercise was about terror attacks as well as any types of man-made and natural disasters. The objective is to be able to get port stakeholders into the picture.

"The purpose of this exercise is develop and coordinate plans and procedures in order to get the employees, tenants, commercials vessels and recreational users safely out of the commercial port of Saipan," he said.

"Today, we are validating port evacuation plans with this table-top exercise, but we are



Rosell

tentatively planning to conduct an actual full-scale exercise two years from now," Rosell stressed.

The tabletop exercise was conducted by the USCG Guam. CNMI is a part of that sector.

The Coast Guard Pacific Area Exercise Support Team, led by Jesse Rangle, facilitated the table-top exercise. According to Rangle, the success of the table-top exercise and the CNMI Area Maritime Security Committee serves as a model for port relationships throughout the Coast Guard Pacific Area of Operations.

Saipan Marine Safety Detachment Supervisor Lieutenant John Peterson could not attend the exercise due to the flu.

Other exercise participants included Craig Petersen, Coast Guard Fourteenth District Port Security Specialist, Scott Mitchem, Department of Homeland Security Protective Security Advisor, Pacific Region, Commonwealth Port Director MaryAnn Lizama, CNMI Office of Homeland Security Director Patrick Tenorio, CNMI Emergency Management Office Director Jack Omar, and Acting Port Police Chief Jordon Kosam.

"We are here to clarify roles, actions and responsibilities in the determination to evacuate the port during the exercises," Rosell said.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 12. 1999

Rift sparked resignation? Deets quits

In a surprise move, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Kerry M. Deets yesterday resigned from her post amid reports of infighting among the board of directors of the island's only business group. Deets, who was installed as Chamber head in January 1999, cited her new job with GTE Pacifica and her family as the main reasons for her decision in quitting the job.

89 asylum-seekers from China sent to US

At least 89 asylum-seekers, who were passengers of the fishing vessels intercepted by federal and local authorities, have been sent to mainland U.S. for "possible further processing," according to a court document. The 89 were among the 537 undocumented aliens from China who were held in the "tent city" on Tinian. Those detained were crewmen and passengers of five boats, which were intercepted by Coast Guard on separate occasions in April and May of this year.

Aug. 12, 2002

DLNR also expecting a deficit

Even as the government is projecting a budget shortfall due to the current spending levels of the departments of Public Health and Public Safety, another government agency divulged it is also anticipating a budget deficit this fiscal year. The Department of Lands and Natural Resources said it is projecting a \$133,000-fiscal deficit, mainly due to holiday pay and within-grade increases on salaries of personnel. But Gene A. Santos, the DLNR's chief for administrative services, stressed that this figure is minute compared to the multi-million dollar budget shortfall projected by the two other departments.

Aug. 12, 2003

Govt tightens fist on spending

With just 50 days more to go before the end of the fiscal year, the Babauta administration is plugging all spending loopholes to make sure that it does not go a cent beyond the mandated budget for this fiscal year, set at \$217.96 million. In a directive to all Executive Branch employees, departments and agency heads, Gov. Juan N. Babauta expanded the government's cost-cutting measures by prohibiting purchases of any items unless authorized in advance by his office. It also prohibits agencies and departments from entering into any contracts without his prior approval. To further ensure compliance with the expenditure limit, Babauta asked everyone to carefully consider any spending requests or decisions that could have an impact on the budget status of the CNMI government.

Lizama retention, casino initiatives make it to November midterm polls

CNMI voters will decide on November 1 whether to retain or reject Superior Court Judge Juan T. Lizama, whose term expires on July 14, 2004. The Election Commission Board approved Friday to place on the ballot the question: "Shall Judge Juan T. Lizama be retained in office?" Voting yes would mean that Lizama will remain as Superior Court judge for another six years. He was sworn in as judge on July 17, 1998.

Aug. 12, 2004

Utility rate hike looms

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Lorraine Babauta has urged the CUC board of directors to commission a study that would propose adjustments in electric, water, and wastewater service rates. Babauta said the cost of service and rate design analysis would include a review of CUC's current financial situation and proposed equitable rates for each of the utility services for each island and class of customer. She noted that with its current financial situation and the consecutive increases in fuel price, CUC is heading toward a point where it may be unable to pay basic expenses with its revenues.

CUC receivables reach \$33M

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s receivables now total over \$33 million, with more than half the amount due from the government. According to CUC comptroller Sohale Samari, the CNMI government agencies owe CUC over \$17.9 million, or 54 percent of the utility's receivables. The remaining 46 percent is due from residential and commercial customers. Samari also said that of the \$15.1 million due from residential and commercial customers, CUC estimates that over \$8.6 million-or 58 percent-is "uncollectible."



CNMI COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PRESENTS THE:

2009 Assistive Technology Fair



**Tuesday, August 18, 2009
8:00 a.m. to 5:00p.m.
Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan
(Hibiscus Hall)**

**Activities for the day include:
Registration @ 7:30 am**

Keynote Speaker

- Kelly Roberts, Ph.D., ATP: AT Legislation
- Kiriko Takahashi, M.A.: AT for LD
- Vendor Display
- AT Demonstration
- AT Device Showcase
- Web-Training for Service Providers

Light refreshments will be served.

For registration and information, please contact Christie Sablan
at 664-7003 or CDD at 664-7000/5 Special Accommodation
should be arranged with CDD seven (7) days before the event.



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Date: Saturday, August 22, 2009
Venue: Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort
Time: 6:00 a.m. Check-In
Tee Time: 7:30 a.m. - Shotgun
Donation: \$80.00

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Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI)

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI), the state-designated agency for protection and advocacy services on behalf of individuals with disabilities, seeks to hire a qualified individual as follows:

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NMPASI Office – Saipan

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION:

This is an exempt professional responsible for providing legal services to eligible clients and for supervising other program personnel assigned to provide lay-advocacy for individuals with disabilities. The Legal Counsel will be selected by a panel of NMPASI personnel and will report to the Program Manager. The Legal Counsel works under limited supervision within prescribed NMPASI standards, policies and procedures with considerable latitude for independent action and decisions.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Juris Doctorate degree;

Admitted to Practice Law in the United States District Court of the Northern Mariana Islands; the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on Middle Road approximately 100 yards north of the Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office **no later than 5:00pm on August 20, 2009**. In order for applications to be considered, they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) Resume, (3) Completed Application forms, and (4) a Police Clearance. Incomplete applications and/or applications which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. James Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7278[tty] or email at nmpasi@pticom.com.

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Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) is soliciting proposals for the financial and compliance audit for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009. NMPASI is the designated, federally funded protection and advocacy system for persons with disabilities in the CNMI. NMPASI uses a variety of individual and systems advocacy approaches to protect people's right, including legal and administrative remedies, legislative, policy change and trainings. Proposals for the financial and compliance audit shall be submitted to NMPASI, P.O. Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than September 4, 2009. The audit shall be performed in compliance with the following guidelines:

1. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards;
2. OMB Circular A-133; and
3. Compliance with the General Requirements Applicable to Federal Financial Assistance Program

Award will be based on specific factors such as prior experience, technical competence, ability to meet the deadline and price in this order. The contract for this audit will be awarded no later than October 1, 2009. The audit work shall commence by December 1, 2009, and a final audit report shall be completed by February 28, 2010. A list of specific audit requirements and Agency's profile are available at NMPASI office, Gualo Rai. Any questions regarding this matter can be addressed to Mr. James Rayphand, Executive Director at Tel. No 235-7274/7273.

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Remembering Rita

In the early '80s, the Royal Shakespeare Company commissioned the writing of a play to portray the transformation of a commoner to the ways of academe and the socially acceptable crowd. In the play, the student Susan renames herself Rita, and she would discover in the end that the transformation that occurs is not on being somebody else, but in appropriating the personality that one is born with as one's very own.

The play was titled *Educating Rita*, reminiscent of the old Greek myth of *Pygmalion*, and popularized by George Bernard Shaw's play of the same title, which was later adapted to a musical that was performed recently on Saipan, *My Fair Lady*.

Educating our Rita of Rota took a journey through the suburbs of Dallas to UH-Manoa, to the University system of California where the PhD was earned. As probably the case with everyone else schooled on the idea that to be fully human, one patterned one's self to the ideal molds of the educational system one goes through, in this case, the New England schoolmarm, Rita's transformation was the realization that she can be a Fair Lady, thank you, without abandoning the gracious ways of *Chamolinia*. She remained a commoner with a personal style that was just pleasingly divine.

The bilingual teacher, whose valedictory on the prime of her time at 55, rose to wider scopes of responsibility, not only to the public education system of the Commonwealth but also to the larger coverage of the Pacific, Asia and beyond. In all these, the facilitative style of the educator remained accommodating of diversity, collaborative in synergy, accepting of differences, inclusive of variety, celebrative of multiplicity, exemplifying what would later be identified as the "island way."

Rita Hocog Inos will be remembered for many things, and anything said this week smacks of being an understatement. What is clear to those who labored, thought through, embraced and empathize with her numerous concerns and preoccupations, was that she exemplified human presence in the highest order. Being Rita was unmistakably and indelibly her trademark, and yes, we will remember what she said and wrote, and what she accomplished, but we will know her most for "being collegially and abundantly there" with us and for us, and finally, for the glory of that which posits her essence and existence.

Remembering Rita. She's a role model worth emulating, a style worth perpetuating among the *tao tao tano* and *tao tao tasi* of this realm.

CLINTON SHARES A "WORKIN'-OUT-OUR-DIFFERENCES-OVER-A-COUPLE-OF-BEERS" MOMENT WITH KIM JONG-IL.



So, what do you do? By any other name

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Announcing: Walt's PassionProfit Workshop Coming Soon! RSVP requested. Will you attend a PassionProfit and/or Writer's workshop held at a soon-to-be-determined location (perhaps a school or Multi-Purpose Center) if held on a Saturday morning 9-12 or Sunday afternoon 2-5 in August? Please e-mail walt@passionprofit.com with the words "will attend." Please indicate your preferred day and time in the e-mail. If enough people respond, it will happen!

One of the challenges of being a passionpreneur is figuring out how to answer the question "So, what do you do?" Many times, especially as we journey along the path of entrepreneurship, our roles, responsibilities and even our results are not easily described or defined. We often wear different hats as we build and promote our business. In my own journey, I've been a radio DJ, artist manager and record label owner (all at the same time), and then later a writer/speaker/Internet entrepreneur at another time. What do I tell people if they ask what I do for a living? At any given moment, I may be making money as all or none. What do I put on my business card? Do I limit myself and choose just one identity? Do I dilute myself and list all of the above?

A young lady I met at the Harlem Book Fair in New York asked that very question:

"What's my definition now?"
she asked, eager to know
All my life I've had a role
But now I want to grow!

I want to share my story
and help others to succeed
I want to show a clearer path
where others may mislead

I want to travel 'round the world
and charge to give a speech
I want to make a ton of cash
while sitting on the beach

I want to do so many things
heck, even write a book!
But, give up all this education?
Man, how will it look?

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

And better yet, please tell me this
and help me think this through
In Heaven's name what will I say
when asked, "what do you do?"

See, everything I've ever done
fit in such nice neat frames
What title will this new me have?
What role shall I proclaim?

(I see here that you wrote a book,
Mr. Passion Profit Man
It seems you've got some answers
so, please help me if you can)

AND SO, I REPLIED:

Well, tell them first you have no job
that concept's just a myth
Tell them that you play a game
they're not familiar with

Tell them that you're just a light
your goal here's just to shine
Tell them what you do on earth
no earthly words define

Tell them that your mission
is to be all you can be
Tell them, "Ask tomorrow
for today I'm being me!"

So, tell them anything you like
it matters not the name
What matters is to do the thing
that sparks your inner flame!

By any other name you'll find
what stays the same is you
as Willie* says to thine own self
is whom you should be true!

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A tribute to a colleague

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Gonzalo Q. Santos, resident executive for Indigenous Affairs, died on Guam last week of an illness. He was 68. I first met my colleague and uncle in 1968 when we worked for the NMI's Community Action Agency. We had our happy days a long time ago.

Since then I've developed a special affinity with him as a fellow writer. I marveled at his piece on "poverty" published in the regional magazine *Micronesian Reporter* some 40 years ago. Getting published in a magazine of such stature was an honor for any aspiring writer.

He was perspicacious and genuine in the discussion and promotion of cultural issues. He wouldn't dismiss nor excoriate warped and adolescent views on this issue, but would listen intently to understand the genesis of dissenting opinions. He had the patience to work on cultural revival for it is the very foundation of society the world over. It isn't parallel to the person we bow over, but it is the seat that defines mankind since the establishment of civilization.

I'm convinced we both share the view that passivity or indifference isn't an option either. We would scribble our opinions forthwith satisfied that we have expressed our viewpoints. We never meant to

be arrogant but rather to promote further deliberative discussions on matters of substance. Indeed, we had to endure the very slow process of change.

We also chuckle at the thought of how our people (in any discussion) would dub others as nemesis for disagreeing. It must be a cultural thing. We agreed that this cultural demeanor must change for the better. We need to grow up. In fact, we can agree to disagree but must return to the table once more to explore points of disagreements. After all, no one has ever secured the wisdom corner all to himself.

Santos, or "Taluñg" as he is most affably known among friends, has that special ability to inject humor into serious discussions. He would temper highly tense ones by reducing it to normalcy with laughter. But there's also the serious side of his demeanor when it comes down to engaging on issues meriting sober discussion. He was a soft spoken and thoughtful person in this respect.

Taluñg demonstrated this special ability even late in life when he would scribble something about Tan Candelaria. He would employ her name to present the other side of the issue or argument. And he did a special job bringing equilibrium to testy issues, too. Most folks appreciate how he defers to Tan Candelaria in the presentation of issues with sobriety.

A teacher and principal for over three decades, his students and fellow friends at PSS would long remember that infectious face as he approaches resolution of issues at all fronts. He's a model to be emulated, calm though highly persistent in pushing for the education of our people at every turn. He's a believer that learning at all levels never stops.

If anything, I thank you Uncle Taluñg for your wise and fatherly counsel and years of fruitful discussions of issues. You have left an indelible mark in the minds of our young people about education and how to employ thoughtful paradigms to promote harmony and understanding among our simple folks right here at home.

I might not be successful securing my version of Tan Candelaria, but that would be a wonderful thing to have as I follow your footprints on the golden sands of these isles promoting healthy discussions of issues like you did for decades. Si Yuus Maase yan ghilisow and I will remember you in my daily prayers as I set my sight on where you left off to carry a tradition among scribblers who write proactively and constructively after tasting black ink. It would be a lonely journey without you but a journey anyway. Si Yuus Maase!

John S. DelRosario is the Secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

Return to the nest

By MAURA PENNINGTON

SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

As more and more new college graduates fly back to the nurtured nests of their childhoods, it seems the homes we should have outgrown have adapted to fit our adult needs in a way our parents couldn't have predicted.

My brother and I, despite living for years far from our home turf in Northern Virginia, have found ourselves back in our old house, back in our old beds, back with Mom and Dad. At first, when I reconnected with high school friends who had returned to the area (or never left it), I talked about my living situation with a dose of self-deprecation. It was not so long ago that the sentence "I live with my parents" would evoke recoiling disdain. It suggested immaturity, incompetence and a lack of initiative. Today, however, the response I usually get is: "Hey, me, too!"

My peers and I are back at home for the low cost of living, but it's about more than that. Admittedly the perks are numerous. In my house, we enjoy HBO, DVR, a fridge stocked with beer and Diet

Coke, a laundry room, showers with perfect water pressure, a top-of-the-line grill and well-furnished deck, a tuned piano, free parking and wireless Internet—not to mention parents who help us out when we have car trouble, computer issues and cooking needs. We are far better taken care of than our friends on their own in the city, friends who consciously chose Washington as their place to live and work.

For us, home was simply the default location. It may seem as though we are doing ourselves a disservice, that we are reverting to a second childhood: We are living in a world sculpted by our parents when we should be living in one of our own making. But we defy the stereotype of parental basement dwellers. We are well-adapted, fully functioning, ambitious young people, and we have given ourselves a special opportunity. Much is gained from having to adjust to new, adult relationships within a family. By restructuring those most innate connections with others, we are able to shed some of the stubborn issues of adolescence. Had we not come home, our youthful conflicts with our parents might have been suspended forever with last words amounting to: "I hate you. You don't understand me." Every Thanksgiving or Christmas could be cause for an eruption of that old frustration. Instead, we have learned to talk to each other as adults.

There are certainly irritations that come with living under Mom

and Dad's roof. Yes, the fact that their job as parents predisposes them to wait up whenever we go out at night can cramp our style, but they let us get away with a lot. For them, our return to the nest is a strange blessing. They can watch us thrive firsthand and never have to worry about what suffering we might be going through in some distant city.

One reason this arrangement works is that all parties know the situation isn't permanent. It will only take a year or so for everyone to be ready to move on and apart.

It would be easy to credit today's uncertain financial climate for the time my friends and I are spending back home, but the truth is, we'd probably be doing it anyway. Many of us are musicians, artists and writers. We are looking for the liberty to exploit our creativity while we are still young.

So, though we may be subject to our parents' occasional passive-aggressive hints—couldn't we get a consulting job like their friends' children did?—we are simply snatching a little slice of time before the real world bears down on us without respite. Gratitude goes to our parents for their generosity and for the suburban lifestyle we were raised on. For anyone unsatisfactorily angsting it out on his or her own post-graduation: Return to the nest and make the most of it. The anxieties of independence can wait.

Letter to the Editor

To the 11th Youth Congress

I would like to thank you for holding the forum for the gubernatorial candidates. Unfortunately some of the candidates did not stick to the truth. I am going to go over what was said about the CUC. I worked for CUC for 13 years so I have some first hand knowledge on the subject.

Let's start with Gov. Fitial. His statement that CUC was fixed is a complete misrepresentation of the truth. CUC is a long way from being fixed. What they have done so far is put a cheap band aid over a wound that required surgery. But take it one point at a time. If CUC is fixed, why has he not lifted the state of emergency? Why do they keep having islandwide power outages? Second, his statement that when he stepped in the engines were only burning 23 percent of the fuel fed to them. That was a complete impossibility. I think he meant to say that they were only 23 percent efficient. Either way he is wrong or I would like to have him explain what he was really trying to say. When he got to talking about megawatts of generation versus megawatts of load he got completely twisted up and had to drop the subject. Not a very impressive presentation.

Mr. Borja stuck to facts he could back up. He quoted the price of heavy fuel versus the price of diesel fuel and why we need to change back to heavy fuel.

Mr. Hofsneider complained about the cost of running CUC and why we should privatize it. He hinted at it but would not come out and say it. The biggest problem with CUC is too much government interference. He should know as he has been a part of it.

They insist on putting their political appointees in positions of authority who do not have a clue as to what they are supposed to do. Yes, CUC should be privatized, but not the way they want to do it. I will cover that at the end of this letter.

Mr. Juan Guerrero talked about the engines being worn out and that we should build a fuel farm and buy the fuel on a yearly basis. Where was he when a representative from GPA came over here and offered that if we would switch back to heavy fuel they would let us combine our orders with them and thus get a much lower price on the fuel? They went on to offer us the use of one of their tanks to store fuel in. He figured that we could save about \$50 million a year on the cost of fuel. I have not bounced the numbers myself. But I do know that we should save a lot of money each year, then Mr. Guerrero went on to talk about how all the engines are old and worn out and should be junked. Here I take a strong exception to his idea. I want to make it very clear. *Industrial engines do not wear out.* If the preventive maintenance and the overhauls are done when they

are supposed to be done, those engines will still be running when all of us are dead and buried. If you do not believe me I ask that you go up to Puerto Rico Power Plant, there is a white superior engine that is running just fine. That engine is probably older than I am, which by the way is 70 years.

Now let's talk about the privatization of CUC. I have been talking up a plan for some time now. We need to have residents of the CNMI for a Co-Op and buy the power plant and the distribution system. The share holders in the Co-Op vote on who is going to be the director and the board of directors. If they do not do the job right, we fire them and put someone else in charge. The thing is that the residents of the CNMI will own it. When it starts making money we will all get paid interest on our shares. The good thing is the money will stay here and not go off island with some foreign investor.

No matter how you feel about that I have had to say, I want you to remember one thing: Whoever controls our infrastructure controls the island. Think about that. Do you want some foreign company to control your island?

One last thought. I find it very touching that Mr. Hofsneider is so concerned about the EPA. Where was he when CUC brought in the rented generators that do not meet the U.S. EPA standards?

Frederick Prosser
As Matuis, Saipan

SO WHAT

From Page 10

What's ultimately more important for your success, happiness and prosperity is not how you define yourself so as to fit neatly into other people's constructs of reality, but simply that you discover and do the thing that is your passion.

(*Willie is Willie Shakespeare, of course!; Inspired by S. Stafford)

■ ■ ■

Note: Fans and followers of the book *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies at Bookseller Bookstore in the Joe-Ten Plaza in Susupe or on Amazon.com. Hurry, there's a limited supply!

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

Note: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

■ ■ ■ Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Slight chance of thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Slight chance of thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Slight chance of thunderstorms.

▲ 87° ▼ 77°

▲ 87° ▼ 77°

▲ 88° ▼ 78°

▲ 87° ▼ 78°

▲ 88° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Palau	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 59 ▼ 48
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 96 ▼ 73
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲ 91 ▼ 82
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 71
London	Showers	▲ 77 ▼ 55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 64
Manila	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Rain	▲ 59 ▼ 51
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 90 ▼ 78
New York	Partly Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 69
Osaka	Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲ 78 ▼ 56
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 71
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 66
Salem	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 53
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 57
Seoul	Rain	▲ 86 ▼ 68
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 69

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:02 AM	6:42 PM	Today	10:34 PM	10:47 AM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:42 PM	Thursday	11:20 PM	11:42 AM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM	Friday		12:41 AM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM	Saturday	12:13 AM	1:43 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:40 PM	Sunday	1:11 AM	2:46 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SAR

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 21, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597 11:50pm 12:25pm 1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941	5:30am	8:05am	Daily
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily
C0943	5:25pm	8:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSSAKA (KIX)

OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

via ICN

OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN

OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline ETD ETA Frequency

Guam-Rota

FRE 113 11:40am 11:50am Daily

FRE 115 1:00pm 1:10pm Daily

Beautify CNMI is looking for volunteers, coconuts

The second phase of the Laolao Revegetation Project is set to take place this Sunday, Aug. 16, at 8am. Started in 2005, the long-term project aims to protect the Laolao Bay Watershed by reducing the amount of sediment accumulating on the adjacent coral reefs. Planting trees has been found to reduce the amount of erosion on hillsides.

Organizers are looking for at least 100 volunteers to participate. The Division of Forestry will drive saplings into the revegetation project area on the day of the planting, but the trees will have

be hand-carried up and down the hillsides to their eventual planting sites.

According to co-organizer Angelo Villagomez of Beautify CNMI, the Saipan Marianas Lions Club and several local families have pledged to volunteer.

"You can never have enough helping hands during these tree plantings, so I hope we get a lot of volunteer help for this one," Villagomez added.

He is also asking the community to donate coconuts for the planting day.

This will be the first time coconuts are used at the revegetation site. Coco-

nuts are being used because they are likely to survive the acidic soil and poor growing conditions of the badlands.

Contact Villagomez at angelovillagomez@gmail.com or 670 285 6462 to donate coconuts, especially saplings.

"I'm hoping that people can just drop the coconuts off in Kagman, but if they contact me early enough in the week I think we can arrange to have them picked up," said Villagomez.

Organizers are asking volunteers to meet at the Santa Soledad Church in Kagman at 7:45am. Tools, gloves, wa-

ter, and a light snack will be provided; however, volunteers are still encouraged to bring a bottle of water, sunscreen, hiking shoes, and a hat.

All volunteers for the Laolao Community Planting Day will receive a limited edition Beautify CNMI or Laolao Revegetation Project t-shirt.

Seven acres of tree saplings were planted at the site in 2006. Over 800 saplings and 250 cuttings consisting of six native species were planted and nearly 5000 native seeds were broadcast, including three garbage bags full

of softball-sized *Barringtonia asiatica* seeds, all of which sprouted. Six species of tree saplings were planted that year including *Sosugi* (*Acacia Confusa*), *Kamachili* (*Pithecellobium dulce*), *Banalo* (*Thespesia populnea*), *Gaogao flores* (*Erythrina sp.*), *Da'ok* (*Calophyllum inophyllum*), and *Pago* (*Hibiscus*).

The event is sponsored by the Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resources Management Office, Beautify CNMI, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Coral Reef Initiative. (PR)

NMC offers course to improve English language skills

The Northern Marianas College, through the Division of Community Programs and Services' Community Development Institute, is offering short-term classes to interested individuals who wish to improve their English language skills.

The course will teach participants the fundamentals of the English lan-

guage such as enunciation, pronunciation and dialogue. The course also

aims to help participants understand and master grammatical concepts necessary for interactive skills development. Throughout the course, students will practice these concepts in oral dialogue and conversation exercises.

CONTACT INFO

CDI Office, Building P
NMC Campus, As Terlaje
Tel: 234-5498 Ext. 1010/05/14/19/30
E-mail: johnm@nmcnet.edu

The August/September course schedule and fees are listed below:

Dates: Aug. 14, 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28, 31 & Sept. 2, 4, 11, 14, 16, 18, 21

Schedule: 4:30pm – 6pm (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays)

Room: TBA

Fee: \$300

It is recommended that all interested individuals register before the start of the first day of class. Certificates of attendance and competence will be

awarded to registered students who complete all course requirements. Full payment is required for admission to a class. A discount price may also be awarded to partnering entities.

To register, or to obtain more in-

Improve your Korean language skills at NMC

The Northern Marianas College, through the Division of Community Programs and Services' Community Development Institute, is offering short-term classes to those who wish to improve their Korean language skills.

This is a beginners' conversational course designed to reinforce the fundamentals of the Korean language. This proficiency-based foreign language course also focuses on developing listening, comprehension, vocabulary, and expressions to be able to communicate in Korean.

The Beginners' Korean Language Development Course will begin on Aug. 18, 2009. The course will be taught by Daniel Huh (cell: 285-2221) and will take place from 5pm to 6pm on Tuesdays and Fridays at the NMC As Terlaje campus. The course fee is \$55.

If you are too busy to come to NMC

formation, visit the CDI Office in Building P at the NMC Campus in As Terlaje. You can also call 234-5498 ext. 1010/05/14/19/30, or e-mail John Manalo at johnm@nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

Hawaii Pacific Export Council expands to include NMI

HONOLULU, HI—The U.S. Department of Commerce's local U.S. Commercial Service office announced yesterday that the Hawaii Pacific Export Council has expanded and diversified its membership to help more companies across Hawaii and the Western Pacific territories sell their products internationally.

The Council now includes members from Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Hawaii Island, Guam, and the Northern Marianas.

The expanded Council will now be able to reach more companies across the State of Hawaii and in Western U.S. territories, allowing the Council to more effectively assist local small and medium sized businesses export their products and services overseas.

The Hawaii Pacific Export Council is comprised of local business leaders appointed by the Secretary of Commerce to promote international market expansion within their local district.

The organization's mission is to promote U.S. Exports from Hawaii and the Pacific Islands region by 1) Supporting the activities of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Hawaii Pacific Export Assistance Center, 2) Counseling businesses in the exporting process and 3) Conducting trade education.

The Hawaii Pacific Export Council's new members are:

■ Neil Arakaki, Hawaiian Candies & Nut Ltd

■ Peter Cannon, Hawaiian Resources Co. Ltd

■ Amy Chun, Consult & Construct LLC

■ David Day, Law Offices of David Day

■ Diana Jackson, Tradex Inc.

■ Casey Jeszenka, Guam SBDC Network

■ Mark Joye, Baker

Hostetler LLP

■ Phillip Mendiola-Long, Sherman Worldwide

■ Jon Kuehner, Retired Foreign Commercial Service

■ Arthur Richardson, University of Hawaii Manoa

■ Richard Schnitzler, Hamakua Macadamia Nut Co.

■ Thomas Steinmetz, Hawaii Tourism Association

■ Paul Walters, Retired Foreign Commercial Service

■ Joel Weaver, University of Hawaii Manoa

The 56 Export Councils nationwide combine the expertise of more than 1,500 exporters and private and public export service providers throughout the United States. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings to Princess Naomi Reen, who turns 10 today, Aug. 12! May you enjoy and have fun on your special day! Love always, Mommy

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

STUDENT SERVICES

Northern Marianas College student employees take time to pose for a group photo after attending a recent professional development workshop coordinated by the Community Development Institute, a program under the Division of Community Programs and Services. The aim of the workshop was to provide training and support to Student Services employees to ensure that each perform to the best of their professional abilities to provide quality services to NMC students and other constituent groups. The students employed under SS through the work-study program and the Workforce Investment Agency also attended the workshop to learn how to better assist students and support their offices. The offices under Student Services include Admissions and Records, Career Services, Testing Services, Counseling, Educational Talent Search, Library Services, Student Support Services, Upward Bound, and Student Activities and Leadership.



TRAINING TOMORROW'S WORKERS TODAY

These students spent part of the summer at Mariana Resort & Spa doing a variety of work from housekeeping to front desk clerk, from Go-kart attendant to stock room clerk, from F & B to flower arranging as part of their training program under the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program sponsored by the CNMI Workforce Investment Agency. Left to right, front: Abigail Iderbei, Natasha Kani, Jolyn Mitin Mitin, Larissa Reyes. Back row: Gregory Camacho, Kule Misa, Stalin Iderbei, Riomono Rios, Moses Rios Jr. Not pictured: Glen Kalen, Dominic Magofna, and Jacqueline Castro.

Business

Watchdog says bad assets still threaten banks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Despite signs that the financial system has stabilized, banks remain threatened by billions of dollars of bad loans on their balance sheets, and more could fail if the economy worsens, a congressional watchdog reports.

In its latest assessment of the \$700 billion financial system bailout, the Congressional Oversight Panel warns that banks still hold many risky loans of uncertain value. If unemployment rises sharply or the commercial real estate market collapses—as many economists fear—the banking system could again lose its footing, the panel says in a report to be released Tuesday.

"The financial system (remains) vulnerable to the crisis conditions that (the bailout) was meant to fix," the panel wrote in a

draft copy of Tuesday's report. The Congressional Oversight Panel was created as part of the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP. It is designed to provide an additional layer of oversight, beyond the Special Inspector General for the TARP and regular audits by the Government Accountability Office.

The report says many of the Obama administration's financial stability efforts are working—including infusions of new capital for banks, heightened scrutiny of capital ratios, "stress-testing" of large financial firms. It also pointed to a public-private investment plan designed to buy up bad assets that has yet to get off the ground.

But with banks still holding the assets at the heart of the cri-

sis, they remain vulnerable, the panel says.

"These steps have ... allowed the banks to take significant losses while building reserves," the panel wrote in the draft report. "Nonetheless, financial stability remains at risk if the underlying problem of toxic assets remains unresolved."

Small banks are especially vulnerable, the report notes. The troubled assets weighing on their balance sheets generally are in the form of complete loans, as opposed to the mortgage-backed securities formed from bundles of numerous loans that have been divvied up. The Treasury Department's main program for buying up bad assets, however, currently targets only those securities and not the so-called "whole" loans.

CEO of Nortel steps down as company liquidates

TORONTO (AP)—Nortel Networks CEO Mike Zafirovski is stepping down from the troubled telecommunications company, saying "a natural transition point" has been reached as the company continues to liquidate.

The company also announced Monday that its board of directors will be reduced to three, from nine, and that its second-quarter losses more than doubled, partly on reorganization costs.

Zafirovski, a protege of former General Electric Co.

Top insurance lobbyist: August key in health drive

WASHINGTON (AP)—August will be a make-or-break month for the drive to revamp health care, as members of Congress use the recess to either sell the need for an overhaul to voters or continue criticism of the insurance industry, the chief of the insurers' main lobbying arm said Monday.

Karen Ignagni, president of America's Health Insurance Plans, told editors and reporters from The Associated Press that if lawmakers use their

head Jack Welch, was named CEO in 2005 after serving as an executive at Motorola Inc. and GE.

He tried to transform Nortel but said the economic crisis changed the outlook dramatically, forcing Nortel to become the first major technology company to seek bankruptcy protection in this global downturn.

Zafirovski, 55, presided over a disheartening series of work force cuts and restructurings during his tenure, and most recently the selling off of assets.

Zafirovski expects to find bidders for most of the remaining assets by the end of next month.

Ignagni said such attacks are designed as a distraction as the health care debate becomes more contentious, saying, "When polls are slipping, people turn to tried-and-true tactics."

Hoping to buttress support for their effort to reshape health care, President Barack Obama and his Democratic allies have targeted the insurance industry with some of their sharpest

barbs. Obama has accused insurers of "abuses" and "record profits," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has called them "villains," and Obama's campaign organization, Organizing for America, accused them Monday of "stirring up fear with false rumors."

Ignagni said such attacks are designed as a distraction as the health care debate becomes more contentious, saying, "When polls are slipping, people turn to tried-and-true tactics."

percent decline in June, the customs agency said.

Hormel Foods boosts 2009 profit guidance

AUSTIN, Minn. (AP)—Hormel Foods Corp. raised its 2009 profit guidance Monday, citing strong performance from its refrigerated foods and grocery segments, as well as improving performance in its turkey business. Shares jumped \$2.09, or 5.8 percent, to close at \$38.21 in Monday trading. The Austin, Minn.-based company said its third-quarter results were stronger than expected, so it boosted its guidance to profit of \$2.36 to \$2.42 per share for the year. The company had previously projected

a profit of between \$2.15 and \$2.25 per share.

McDonald's July same-store sales rise 4.3 percent

NEW YORK (AP)—McDonald's Corp. said Monday its same-store sales climbed 4.3 percent in July, as the nation's biggest hamburger chain benefited from budget-conscious consumers and wide promotion of new coffee drinks. The Oak Brook, Ill., company said U.S. same-store sales climbed 2.6 percent because of new products, including McCafe espresso-based coffee. European same-store sales surged 7.2 percent, helped by growth in France and the U.K.

Nation

Obama braces for 'vigorous' town hall health talk

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (AP)—A day before he faces a potentially boisterous town hall in New Hampshire, President Barack Obama praised the spirited debate over his health care plans and predicted "sensible and reasoned arguments" would ultimately prevail in Congress.

In his first North American summit, Obama met Monday with the leaders of Mexico and Canada, covering such shared hot topics as trade barriers, drug violence and the expected resurgence of swine flu. But questions about domestic policy—Obama's drive for overhauls to U.S. health care and immigration policy—followed him to Mexico and stole the biggest share of the hour the three leaders appeared together before reporters.

Concerns over Obama's health care reform proposal are heating up town hall meetings, chat rooms and radio shows in the U.S.—driving his poll numbers down and threatening the future of his highest domestic priority. While Congress is in recess for the month of August, lawmakers are hearing from constituents



President Barack Obama gestures during a joint press conference with Mexico's President Felipe Calderon and Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper, not seen, at the Cabanas Cultural Center in Guadalajara, Mexico, Monday Aug. 10, 2009.

worried about divisive issues such as the government's role

NY police divers find man's body in plane wreckage

HOBOKEN, N.J. (AP)—Hudson River divers on Monday found the wreckage of a small plane and one of two victims missing following a midair collision with a sightseeing helicopter that killed nine people.

The wreckage of the single-engine Piper was found in about 60 feet of water in the middle of the river, indicating it had drifted from the spot where it crashed, closer to New Jersey's riverbank, said the New York Police Department's top spokesman, Paul Browne. It was found on its side with no wings visible.

NYPD divers couldn't remove the man's body from the aircraft wreckage. The Army Corps of Engineers was being

consulted about trying to pull the aircraft to the surface of the river, which is less than three-quarters of a mile wide at the crash site between New York and New Jersey.

Nine people—two men and a boy from a Pennsylvania family on the plane and five Italian tourists on the helicopter—died in Saturday's collision, which occurred in a congested flyway popular with sightseers. The pilot of the tour helicopter also died. Before Monday afternoon, seven bodies had been recovered.

The helicopter was raised from the water Sunday.

At an afternoon briefing, National Transportation Safety Board chief Debbie Hersman said an eight-day NTSB sur-

vey of the river corridor before the collision had counted about 225 aircraft flying within a 3-mile radius of the collision site each day.

The airspace where many of these tour craft fly is below 1,100 feet, where pilots are largely free to choose their own routes, radioing their positions periodically but not communicating regularly with air traffic controllers.

Hersman said air traffic controllers at Teterboro (N.J.) Airport told the pilot of the small plane to switch radio frequencies so controllers at Newark (N.J.) Airport could communicate with him. She said Newark controllers never made contact with the pilot before the crash.

Ark. woman released until trial in weapons case

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—The wife of a doctor accused of illegally owning high-explosive grenades was released from jail Monday pending her trial for allegedly hindering the investigation.

U.S. District Judge Beth Deere ordered Sangeeta Mann's release despite testimony from David Oliver, a special agent with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, that Mann's husband is "the prime suspect" in the car bombing of the head of the state Medical Board. When Sangeeta Mann's attorney, Cathy Compton, suggested to Oliver that her client had nothing to do with

the bombing, Oliver replied: "That's not accurate."

No one has been charged in the February bombing in West Memphis in which Dr. Trent Pierce, chairman of the state Medical Board, lost an eye and suffered other injuries.

In finding that Sangeeta Mann was not a flight risk, Deere noted witness testimony at Monday's detention hearing that portrayed Mann as a devoted mother and friend with far more ties to the U.S. than to her native India.

"I don't think I can find that (Mann) is probably going to flee the country," Deere said.

Mann, 48, of London, Ark., was arrested last week. The

seven-count indictment, unsealed Friday, accuses her and her husband, Dr. Randeep Mann, of attempting to hide from federal agents signed, blank checks. The indictment also accuses Sangeeta Mann of lying to a federal grand jury about removing the checks from her husband's medical office on his orders.

Randeep Mann already was charged with illegally possessing grenades. He has been jailed since his arrest in March, which followed a search of his home, where agents found a large cache of weapons and ammunition. Most of the firearms met legal requirements and were not seized.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China's exports, imports fall sharply in July

BEIJING (AP)—The decline in China's imports accelerated in July despite a rise in economic growth, while exports also fell more sharply amid weak global demand, data showed Tuesday. Imports fell 14.9 percent from a year earlier, compared with a 13.2 percent decline the previous month, the customs agency reported. That was despite a rise in Chinese investment and consumer spending amid a massive government stimulus that is driving demand for imported raw materials and components. Exports fell by 22.9 percent in July from a year earlier, compared with a 21.4



Police investigate chase, crash that killed 8

DINUBA, Calif. (AP)—Authorities in California's Central Valley have offered counseling to the officer involved in a weekend police chase that ended when a stolen car smashed into a pickup, killing five young children from the same family and three others, police said Monday. The Highway Patrol and local police on Monday were investigating the Saturday chase, and Dinuba Chief James Olvera said Officer Marcos Nunes—a five-year veteran who conducted the pursuit—has been put on paid administrative leave. An initial investigation indicated that proper procedure was followed in the case, Olvera said Monday. He wouldn't disclose any information about Nunes' job performance.

Failed rescue: 2 beached whales die off Fla. shore

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP)—Rescuers failed in a frantic bid to save a mother whale and her baby after the pair ran aground off a South Florida beach Monday as hundreds looked on, many in tears. Neither animal survived despite efforts to keep them alive with moist towels and umbrellas to protect their drying skin from the scorching sun. A team of marine mammal specialists tried to save the distressed whales after they became trapped in shallow waters at Hollywood beach, just north of Miami. The mother died and the calf had to be euthanized, authorities said. Swimmers spotted the whales around 1 p.m. in waist-deep water and tried to encourage them to head back toward deeper water. The whales briefly swam away, but returned and headed toward the beach.

8 cities in US line up for swine flu vaccine test

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Hundreds of Americans in eight cities are lining up for experimental swine flu shots in a race to get a vaccine out in case the new flu virus regains strength this fall and winter.

Sharon Frey, who is leading the government-funded testing at Saint Louis University, said scientists have been working late nights and weekends to organize the studies and recruit

volunteers.

"Typically it takes a year to do this," said Frey, an infectious diseases expert. "I can tell you we're working at breakneck speed."

About 2,800 people will participate in the government-led studies. Saint Louis University will test 200 adults and 200 children. Also under way are separate studies by five flu vaccine

manufacturers under contract with the government.

Health officials expect to have about 160 million doses available this fall, with the first batch sometime in September. The studies will test the safety and effectiveness of vaccines developed by drug makers and help determine dosage and whether it can be given with a seasonal flu shot.

Participants will be given different combinations of two swine flu vaccines made by drug makers Sanofi Pasteur and CSL Limited and a seasonal flu vaccine.

Frey said the data will be turned around quickly for review by the Food and Drug Administration.

It's possible the government will begin a public vaccination campaign before all of the work

of the trials is complete, Dr. Anne Schuchat has said. She oversees the flu vaccination programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Health officials are haunted by the swine flu vaccine campaign in 1976, which was stopped after unexpectedly high numbers of patients suffered a paralyzing condition called Guillain-Barre Syndrome.

Hillary Clinton: I'm secretary of state, not Bill

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—Hillary Clinton has a message for the world: It's not all about Bill.

The secretary of state bristled Monday when—as she heard it—a Congolese university student asked what her husband thought about an international financial matter.

She hadn't traveled to Africa to talk about her husband the ex-president. But even there, she couldn't escape his outsized shadow.

She abruptly reclaimed the stage for herself.

"My husband is not secretary of state, I am," she snapped. "I am not going to be channeling my husband."

Clinton's presence, so bold in her historic presidential candidacy against Barack Obama, has sometimes been hard to see in the months she's served as the supposed

face and voice of U.S. foreign policy.

The president's ambitious travels have overshadowed her, heavyweight special envoys have been assigned to the world's critical hotspots, Vice President Joe Biden has taken on assignments abroad—and then last week her husband succeeded in a North Korean mission to free two journalists even as she landed in Africa on a seven-nation trip.

"You want me to tell you what my husband thinks?" she asked incredulously when the student raised a question about a multibillion-dollar Chinese loan offer to Congo.

"If you want my opinion, I will tell you my opinion," she said. "I am not going to be channeling my husband."

The moderator quickly moved on.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE NMI RETIREMENT FUND

The Board of Trustees, NMI Retirement Fund, proposes to adopt resolutions to protect the Retirement Fund's assets for all Fund members by any means necessary until such time as the Fund is no longer in a fiscal emergency, as follows:

Board Resolution No. 09-002 "Non-Recognition of Retiree Adoptions for Survivor Benefits Purposes" – proposes to restrict the Fund from processing any amendments or additions to originally filed Applications for Retirement that would add beneficiaries arising through adoption for purposes of the computation of survivor benefits.

Board Resolution No. 09-003 "To Cease Payment of Employee Contribution Refunds" – proposes for the Fund to cease processing refunds of employee contributions.

The Board of Trustees will hold public hearings to hear the comments of Fund members and the general public on these Board resolutions, published in the Saipan Tribune on July 15, 2009 and available from the Fund website at www.nmiretirement.com, as follows:

Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at 6:30 PM - Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan

Thursday, August 27, 2009 at 6:00 PM – Superior Courthouse, San Jose, Tinian

Friday, August 28, 2009, 11:30 AM – Rota Round House, Songsong Village, Rota

NMI Retirement Fund members and the public are encouraged to participate.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP09-DOC-136

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 01, 2009 • TIME: 4:00 P.M.

"TO CREATE A CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)
FOR THE ISLANDS OF ROTA AND TINIAN
A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. MICHAEL ADA, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE VIA E-MAIL TO commerce.adam@gmail.com OR FAX TO (670) 664-3067 NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, AUGUST 21, 2009.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENTOSA	024E	8/1 Sat	7/30 Thu	7/30 Thu	7/28 Tue	7/25 Sat	8/7 Fri	8/3 Mon	8/2 Sun	7/26 Sun	7/26 Sun	8/3 Mon	8/7 Fri	8/9 Sun	8/11 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	017E	8/8 Sat	8/6 Thu	8/6 Thu	8/4 Tue	8/1 Sat	8/14 Fri	8/10 Mon	8/9 Sun	8/2 Sun	8/2 Sun	8/10 Mon	8/14 Fri	8/16 Sun	8/18 Tue
MELL SENOKO	026E	8/15 Sat	8/13 Thu	8/13 Thu	8/11 Tue	8/8 Sat	8/21 Fri	8/17 Mon	8/16 Sun	8/9 Sun	8/9 Sun	8/17 Mon	8/21 Fri	8/23 Sun	8/25 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	025E	8/22 Sat	8/20 Thu	8/20 Thu	8/18 Tue	8/15 Sat	8/28 Fri	8/24 Mon	8/23 Sun	8/16 Sun	8/16 Sun	8/24 Mon	8/28 Fri	8/30 Sun	9/1 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	018E	8/29 Sat	8/27 Thu	8/27 Thu	8/25 Tue	8/22 Sat	9/4 Fri	8/31 Mon	8/30 Sun	8/23 Sun	8/23 Sun	8/31 Mon	9/4 Fri	9/6 Sun	9/8 Tue
MELL SENOKO	027E	9/5 Sat	9/3 Thu	9/3 Thu	9/1 Tue	8/29 Sat	9/11 Fri	9/7 Mon	9/6 Sun	8/30 Sun	8/30 Sun	9/7 Mon	9/11 Fri	9/13 Sun	9/15 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore	
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MELL SENOKO	026E	8/29 Sat	8/30 Sun	8/30 Sun	SKIP	9/2 Wed	9/4 Fri	9/6 Sun	SKIP	9/11 Fri	9/12 Sat	9/17 Thu	10/6 Tue	9/20 Sun	9/16 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	025E	9/5 Sat	9/6 Sun	9/6 Sun	9/8 Tue	9/9 Wed	9/11 Fri	9/13 Sun	SKIP	9/18 Fri	9/19 Sat	9/24 Thu	10/13 Tue	9/27 Sun	9/23 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	018E	9/12 Sat	9/13 Sun	9/13 Sun	SKIP	9/16 Wed	9/20 Sun	SKIP	9/25 Fri	9/26 Sat	10/1 Thu	10/20 Tue	10/4 Sun	9/30 Wed	
MELL SENOKO	027E	9/19 Sat	9/20 Sun	9/20 Sun	9/22 Tue	9/23 Wed	9/25 Fri	9/27 Sun	SKIP	10/2 Fri	10/3 Sat	10/8 Thu	10/27 Tue	10/11 Sun	10/7 Wed

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Asia

Police: 400 unaccounted for in Taiwan mudslide

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A mudslide touched off by a deadly typhoon buried a remote mountain village, leaving at least 400 people unaccounted for Monday, and military rescue helicopters unable to land because of the slippery ground dropped food to desperate survivors.

Typhoon Morakot slammed Taiwan over the weekend with as much as 80 inches (two meters) of rain, inflicting the worst flooding the island has seen in at least a half-century.

The storm submerged large swaths of farmland in chocolate-brown muck and swamped city streets before crossing the 112-mile-wide Taiwan Strait and hitting China, where it forced the evacuation of nearly 1 million people.

A disaster appeared to be unfolding around the isolated southern village of Shiao Lin, which was hit by a mudslide Sunday at about 6 a.m. local time—while many people were still asleep—and was cut off by land from the outside world.

Speaking to The Associated Press, a Taiwanese police official who identified himself only by his surname, Wang, said 400 people were unaccounted for in



Two men float a dog and supplies through flooded streets of Pingtung county, southern Taiwan, Monday, Aug. 10, 2009.

the village. Wang said 100 people had been rescued or otherwise avoided the brunt of the disaster.

One of the rescued villagers, an unidentified middle-aged man, told police that his family of 10 had been wiped out.

"They're gone," he said, according to a local photographer who overheard the exchange. "All gone."

Another rescued villager, Lin Chien-chung, told the United Evening News that he believes as many as 600 people were buried in the mudslide.

Earthquakes shake Tokyo area, Indian Ocean

TOKYO (AP)—A powerful earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.6 hit Tokyo and nearby areas shortly after dawn Tuesday, halting trains and forcing two nuclear reactors to be shut down for safety checks.

The U.S. Geological Survey said another, unrelated quake with a 7.6 magnitude hit the Indian Ocean about 160 miles (257 kilometers) north of Port Blair in India's Andaman Islands. A tsunami watch was called for India, Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand and Bangladesh. The caution was later lifted without any tsunami being recorded.

The Andaman Islands quake was reported to be 20.6 miles (33.15 kilometers) deep, the U.S. Geological Survey said. On Dec. 26, 2004, about 230,000 people were killed in a dozen countries around the Indian Ocean when a magnitude 9.0 earthquake triggered a tsunami.

In the Japan quake, there were no immediate reports of serious damages or injury, although a boy was reportedly hurt when a TV fell on his leg and three elderly people were hurt slightly when they were hit by falling objects or slipped and fell.

Japan's Meteorological Agency

also issued a tsunami warning from the Japanese tremor early Tuesday, which centered off the Suruga Bay, southwest of Tokyo. The warning was also later lifted. The quake occurred at a depth of 12 miles (20 kilometers). Public broadcaster NHK said a small increase of waves of some 10 inches (30 centimeters) was observed along the coastline of Yaizu City.

Central Japan Railway Co.

has suspended operations of

Shinkansen bullet trains, while

the central government set up

a task force at the prime minister's office, Kyodo reported.

succeed Mehsud. He also insisted the Taliban chief was alive and his supporters unified.

served under house arrest.

Western airstrikes kill fewer Afghan civilians

KABUL (AP)—Fewer civilians were killed by airstrikes in Afghanistan last month even as U.S. and NATO forces pushed deep into Taliban territory, driving clashes and Western casualties sharply higher. Western and Afghan officials say the drop appears to be an early indication of success for restrictions on air power imposed in July by Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the new commander of coalition forces, in an attempt to limit civilian casualties. The U.S. and NATO saw Afghan anger over the deaths as a major impediment to a new counterinsurgency strategy that makes winning over the population a higher priority than killing insurgents.

Myanmar's Suu Kyi to return to house arrest

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A Myanmar court found pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi guilty Tuesday of violating her house arrest, but the head of the military-ruled country said she could serve out an 18-month sentence under house arrest. The court initially sentenced Suu Kyi to a three-year prison term. But after a five-minute recess, the country's home minister entered the courtroom and read aloud a special order from junta chief Senior Gen. Than Shwe. The order said Than Shwe was cutting the sentence in half to 18 months and that it could be

World

Iraq suffers bloodiest day since US pullback

BAGHDAD (AP)—A double truck bombing Monday in Mosul and blasts in Baghdad brought the Iraqi death toll to more than 100 in three days, the worst spasm of violence the country has suffered since U.S. forces left the cities.

The bloodshed threatened to chip away at public confidence in the U.S.-backed government as it seeks to project a sense of normalcy ahead of next year's national elections, including an announcement last week that all concrete blast walls will be gone from Baghdad's main roads by mid-September.

The Mosul bombing, like another Friday on the fringes of the ethnically tense city, targeted ethnic minorities, indicating

that insurgents are seeking out relatively undefended targets to maximize casualties as the strapped Iraqi army focuses its efforts on more central areas.

The attacks in Mosul, which the U.S. military has called the last stronghold of al-Qaida, killed 28 people Monday and 44 on Friday. It's the first time since the U.S. turned urban security over to the Iraqis on June 30 that insurgents have managed to stage two massive attacks in short order.

Another 22 Iraqis, mostly day laborers, died in two bombings in Baghdad on Monday. Seven Shiite pilgrims also were killed by bombings in Baghdad on Friday.

The latest deaths raise to at

least 158 the number killed in the first 10 days of August—more than half the 309 killed in all of July, according to an Associated Press tally.

"We call on the government to make clear the real security situation in Iraq," said lawmaker Alaa Maki of the minority Sunnis. "We are not convinced by statements that everything is OK ... Iraqi people want security."

However, it's difficult to detect a trend. The rate of bombings tends to rise or fall month by month. This could mean the insurgents are trying to keep the authorities off balance, or that they are too weak to carry out the sustained campaigns that typified earlier years of the U.S. occupation.

Restive youths burn cars in new Paris unrest

BAGNOLET, France (AP)—Some 40 rioters in a Paris suburb hurled Molotov cocktails at police and firefighters, torched cars and one person fired a handgun during a rampage early Monday prompted by the death of a teen pizza delivery fleeing police.

Interior Minister Brice Hortefeux called for calm after the overnight violence, signaling fears that unrest by angry suburban youth could spread from Bagnolet, on Paris' eastern edge. Hortefeux announced plans for an internal police investigation with results to be made public.

Some witnesses claimed that a police car hit the 18-year-old's motorcycle after he tried to flee a document check outside the project. "I saw it with my own eyes He didn't stop (and) they hit him," Alexandre Matthias told iTele TV station.

About 40 young people

hurled Molotov cocktails and projectiles at police and emergency workers on the scene,

and one person fired a handgun at police, Hortefeux's office said in a statement.

The rioters set fire to 29 cars and smashed windows of a high school and store, the statement said. One person was detained and order was restored after police reinforcements arrived.

Kidnapped Chechen activist found dead

MOSCOW (AP)—The kidnapped head of a Chechen aid group and her husband were found dead in the trunk of their car a day after being kidnapped, police and an official of the Russian human rights group Memorial said Tuesday.

Memorial's Alexander Cherkasov told The Associated Press that the bodies of Zarema Sadulayeva and her husband were found in a suburb of the Chechen capital Grozny. A Chechen Interior Ministry spokesman said the bodies were found in the car's

trunk with gunshot wounds in the head and chest.

The abductions followed last month's kidnapping and killing of another prominent rights activist, Natalya Estemirova. Rights activists blame the forces of Chechen president Ramzan Kadyrov for abductions, killings and torture.

Cherkasov said Sadulayeva's group was helping children in Chechnya, a region that has been devastated by two separatist wars over the last 15 years.

Fighting between Russian

forces and separatist rebels in Chechnya has dwindled to occasional small clashes in recent years. But Kadyrov opponents say he has imposed a regime of fear and impunity.

Sadulayeva's abduction follows the death of prominent rights activist Natalya Estemirova, whose body was found on a roadside in a neighboring province hours after her abduction in Grozny. Estemirova had exposed alleged rights abuses by the government of the Kremlin-backed Kadyrov.

WORLD BRIEFS

New faces elected in historic Palestinian vote

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP)—The Palestinian Fatah movement elected a group of younger leaders to its top council on Tuesday, bolstering its credentials as the West's best hope for Mideast peace, according to preliminary voting results. Fatah's first conference in two decades, while plagued by the movement's characteristic wrangling and intrigue, appeared to rejuvenate the pre-eminent Palestinian organization at a critical moment, weeks before President Barack Obama is to unveil a comprehensive

plan to achieve Israeli-Palestinian peace. Unofficial results indicated that Fatah's younger generation won a majority of seats on the Central Committee, said polling officials, who declined to be named ahead of the official announcement.

US bought oil stolen from Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP)—U.S. refineries bought millions of dollars worth of oil stolen from Mexican government pipelines and smuggled across the border, the U.S. Justice Department told The Associated Press—illegal operations now led by

Mexican drug cartels expanding their reach. Criminals—mostly drug gangs—tap remote pipelines, sometimes building pipelines of their own, to siphon off hundreds of millions of dollars worth of oil each year, the Mexican oil monopoly said. At least one U.S. oil executive has pleaded guilty to conspiracy in such a deal. On Tuesday, the U.S. Homeland Security department is scheduled to return \$2.4 million to Mexico's tax administration, the first batch of money seized during a binational investigation into smuggled oil that authorities expect to lead to more arrests and seizures.

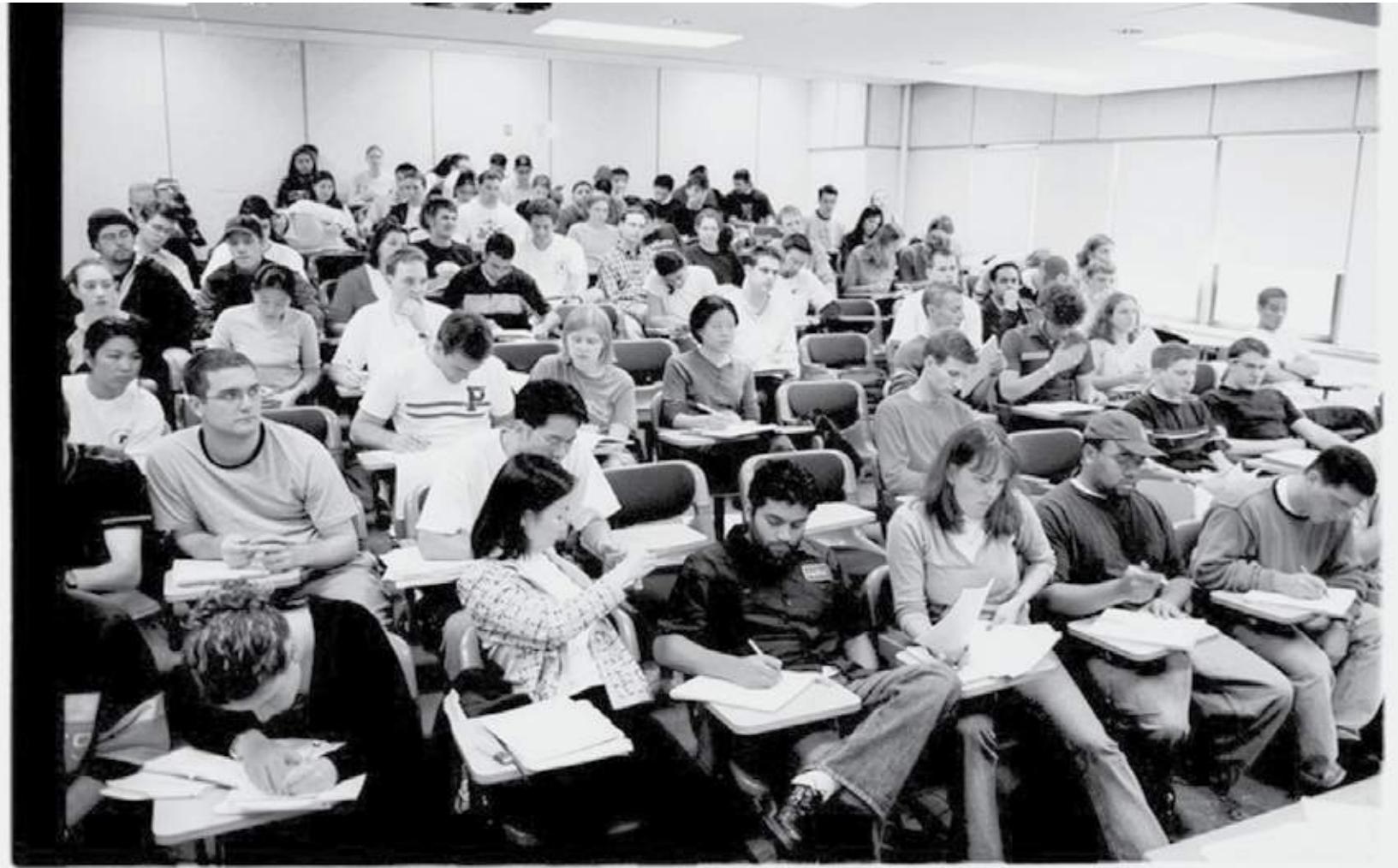
ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan: Al-Qaida has role in Taliban succession

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Al-Qaida wants to choose the next Pakistani Taliban leader to replace Baitullah Mehsud, a top Pakistani official claimed Monday—a move that could help the terror group maintain its sanctuaries near the Afghan border. Pakistani and American officials are confident Mehsud died in a CIA missile strike last Wednesday in the South Waziristan tribal region, despite Taliban denials. Militants are said to have been meeting in recent days to determine Mehsud's successor. One contender, Hakimullah, who uses only one name, phoned The Associated Press on Monday and railed against Pakistani government claims that he himself had been killed in deadly infighting among the top contenders to suc-

Campus Life

School budgets dip, class sizes grow



The recession is forcing districts to lay off teachers even as the economic stimulus pumps billions of dollars into schools. As a result, classrooms across the country will be more crowded when school starts in the fall.

By LIBBY QUAID
AP EDUCATION WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Like a seesaw on the school playground, falling state budgets are pushing class sizes higher.

The recession is forcing districts to lay off teachers even as the economic stimulus pumps billions of dollars into schools. As a result, classrooms across the country will be more crowded when school starts in the fall.

Patti Hathorn, a fifth-grade teacher in rural Pinson, Ala., is expecting 29 or 30 students, making it the biggest class she's taught. Many of her students at Kermit Johnson Elementary are learning English or are in special education.

"You may have a child that needs you, that needs that adult figure, to spend the extra five minutes with them. If you have five or six extra kids, that five minutes is gone," Hathorn said.

It's the same story in small communities such as Pinson and Wapakoneta, Ohio, and urban areas including Los Angeles and Broward County, Fla. In many places, classes will have well over 30 kids.

There is no official data on class sizes for the upcoming year; many states and districts have not finalized their budgets. A survey this year by the American Association of School Administrators found that 44 percent of school districts expected to increase class size.

Educators and parents worry the larger classes will keep kids from learning.

"The issue is how this affects kids and what price this generation is going to have to pay," said John White, prin-

cipal of Mulholland Middle School in Los Angeles, where the district has laid off more than 2,000 teachers.

Classes in Los Angeles are expected to grow by two kids in fourth through 12th grades. Middle school classes will have 35 kids on average; juniors and seniors will have about 43 kids in each class. Kindergarten through third-grade classes will rise by four kids to 24.

Very large classes can keep teachers from teaching because their time is spent keeping order. Crowded classrooms also increase the chance that struggling students may fall through the cracks.

"I certainly won't say there's a magic number because it depends on the nature of the student group," said Jeremy Finn, education professor at University at Buffalo-SUNY. "But in the elementary grades especially, there's a certain point at which teachers can't do what they were trained to do."

Just as there's a downside to bigger classes, there's an upside to smaller ones, he said.

Research has shown that younger children, those in kindergarten through third grade, perform and behave better in smaller classes. Benefits are strongest for minority and poor children, Finn said.

There is evidence that being in small classes early on improves a student's chance of graduating from high school or taking the SAT or ACT college entrance exams.

Most often cited is a large-scale, four-year study of smaller class sizes in Tennessee in the 1980s. The study found that by eighth grade, children

who had had smaller classes in kindergarten through third grade had substantial advantages in all subjects over their peers who had been in larger classes.

Others dispute the importance of smaller classes; the debate is far from settled.

Researcher Eric Hanushek called it "kind of silly" that advocates still rely on 20-year-old data from Tennessee. He pointed to other studies that showed small to negligible benefits for kids in small classes.

"All the research suggests the number of kids is much less important than who is teaching the class," said Hanushek, a senior fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. "In the face of budget problems, allowing class size to move a little bit makes all the sense in the world."

"In fact, to the extent you put ineffective teachers into classrooms, you're much better off by keeping larger classes with effective teachers," he said.

The trouble with this recession is that kids may wind up with larger classes and ineffective teachers.

Mass layoffs are reshuffling teachers into grades or subjects they may never have taught, or taught long ago. Administrators are being pushed back into the classroom after years away from teaching.

At Coweeman Middle School in rural Kelso, Wash., one teacher who has taught math for 30 years has been reassigned to special education, principal Randy Heath said. In fact, every teacher who is endorsed to teach special education is being switched to those classes, regardless of whether he

or she actually has taught it, he said.

"We're being forced to make decisions that we know are not good for kids," Heath said.

Money from the economic stimulus has reduced the number of teacher layoffs, but job losses are still widespread. Although the stimulus provided an unprecedented \$100 billion for education, that's not enough to cover state and local budget shortfalls.

The stimulus boosted federal spending and helped restore cuts in state budgets, sources that together provide about 56 percent of school dollars. It did not make up for local tax revenues, which give schools the rest of their money.

Local revenues have been socked by the recession and may dip even lower because property assessments tend to lag behind a recession.

"It's a little hard to tell whether this upcoming school year or the one after is going to be more difficult," said Mike Casserly, executive director of the Council of the Great City Schools, a coalition of the biggest urban public school systems.

This school year, Cheryl James of Sacramento, Calif., plans to volunteer in her 12-year-old son's school to help teachers facing bigger class sizes at his middle school.

James expects his classes to get bigger because of teacher layoffs and retirements, but she doesn't yet know by how much.

"If you have more people in the room—trying to get their hand up, trying to get their question answered, trying to get someone to stop kicking the back of their chair—there are going to be more problems," James said.

Feds offer school guide for swine flu outbreaks

By SEEMA MEHTA
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Educators should be conservative when they consider shutting schools because of outbreaks of the swine flu, or the H1N1 virus, federal officials said Friday as they released guidelines for school districts.

While emphasizing that such matters are local decisions, the officials said a desire to prevent the virus' spread must be balanced with the fallout from school closures—parents struggling to find child care, children left unsupervised and disruption to education.

"Once you close a school, as we saw last spring, that causes a very significant ripple effect because children need to stay home," Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said at a morning news conference with education and health officials in Washington.

H1N1 is a new flu virus that was detected in this country in April, and caused fear as more than 700 schools throughout the nation closed because of suspected outbreaks. Overnight camps were particularly hard-hit with flu cases this summer, prompting some to send children home.

Thomas R. Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said health officials and scientists have learned more about the virus since the spring outbreaks. Young people are particularly susceptible, but in healthy people, the symptoms tend to be mild. Parents had been urged to keep sick children home for seven days after a fever ended; now, officials say children only need to be kept home 24 hours.

"It's now more clear to us, perhaps than it was before, there are relatively few reasons and rare times when it makes sense to close a school just because the virus was present," Frieden said.

Exceptions are schools that serve vulnerable populations, such as pregnant teens or students with fragile health such as those with muscular dystrophy, he said. Another reason to close would be if classes could not continue because many students and staff are absent.

Local school districts must develop plans for handling sick children at school, including setting aside an isolation room where they can rest while waiting to go home, and creating a system to allow education to continue.

"Realistically, some schools will close this fall. It's incredibly important to all of us that our students continue to learn," said U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan. "Educators need to start thinking now about having temporary home school in place using both phones and the Internet."

Officials urged parents to get their children the two-dose vaccination when it becomes available in October. School officials also were encouraged to be vigilant in teaching children preventive behavior, such as washing their hands frequently and coughing into their sleeve.

If the strain mutates into something more serious, officials said stricter precautions will be needed, such as screening children for fever when they come to school every morning, not allowing large student group gatherings and dismissing students at staggered times.

Federal guidelines for colleges and preschools are forthcoming.

Life & Style

By ROBIN ABCARIAN
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—Perez Hilton is not sorry.

He is not sorry for trashing Miss California for saying marriage should be between a man and woman.

He is not sorry he accused Michael Jackson of faking it on the day he died (“Heart attack or cold feet?”), although he did redact his post to remove the cynical speculation.

He is not sorry he posted photos of Oscar-winning “Milk” screenwriter Dustin Lance Black, avatar of gay family values, having unprotected sex with a porn actor. (“If you make a sex tape

sion his wealth and influence—only grows. Even Hilton, a once-schlubby but increasingly lean (thanks to two trainers and a \$70-a-day meal service) Cuban-American kid from Miami, seems amazed.

“In. San. Ity,” he trilled, sitting in a T-shirt and sweat pants on an L-shaped couch in the living room of his surprisingly modest two-bedroom apartment.

The routine has not endeared him to many of the stars he picks on, nor their fans. After dissing Michael Jackson, an “unfollow Perez” campaign was launched on Twitter (although he netted new followers). When he was attacked in Toronto after tangling with will.i.am, plenty of folks were happy to see him

Britney Spears, whom he has never met, asked him to star as a grotesque ringmaster in the video that opens each performance of her current Circus tour. Madonna sent him a video message last year, asking him to choose between her and his 2-year-old dog, Teddy. (“...’Cause I can get down on all fours,” purrs the Queen of Pop. “I chase balls. And I love a biscuit.”)

Replaying the Madonna video for a reporter induces in Hilton the kind of hysteria one might see in a tween girl in the front row of a Jonas Brothers concert. “Ohhmyyyygawwwd,” he screams, high-pitched, sitting cross-legged on the floor, his elbows tight against his sides as he claps in ecstasy.

to stuff that’s sent in randomly,” said Hilton. “I listen to everything.”

Hutchinson’s success allowed Robin Bechtel, former head of new media and new business ventures at Warner Bros. Records, to persuade company chairman Tom Whalley to give Hilton his own imprint. “Everyone in the company was like, ‘We have to sign Eric Hutchinson,’ and I was like, ‘No, we have to sign Perez,’” said Bechtel. “He has great ears. If Perez likes something, it’s probably going to break.”

His first artist is a slight 20-year-old French pop singer named Sliimy (pronounced “slim-e”) who has opened for Britney Spears.

In constant demand by reporters,

relationship with your readers and advertisers get that and go for that.”

Copeland would not disclose Hilton’s ad revenues but said the site commands as much as \$72,000 for a single 24-hour wallpaper-style ad that incorporates the banner logo across the top of the site. Nailing down traffic figures is notoriously difficult because there are so many ways to calculate them. Copeland said the site gets more than 10 million unique visitors per month and 300 million page views per month (although Copeland’s own Web site tells advertisers the site gets 246 million page views per month).

On Twitter, Hilton ranks around 20th in popularity. His 1.2 million followers

Is troublemaker Perez Hilton a flash in the pan?

or pictures, they will get out. And I will post them!” And in this case, take them down when threatened with a privacy invasion lawsuit.)

Nor is he entirely sorry for directing a gay slur at Black Eyed Peas singer will.i.am (although after getting punched in the face by the Black Eyed Peas’ road manager in retaliation, he realizes it was wrong to use that word and issued a qualified apology to “the gay community”—but not to will.i.am, who, he said, “is a moron”).

Anyway, why would he be sorry?

“I’ve built my brand on being a bitch,” said the gay celebrity blogger. “So what?”

But Hilton no longer just gossips about celebrities; he has become one. Now they gossip about him. No longer the failed actor with his nose pressed against the glass, Hilton is firmly on the inside now. He is a star in his own right, in the midst of an expansion that could secure his status as a tastemaker and entrepreneur, or irreparably dilute his brand.

Hilton’s closest competitors—popular sites such as TMZ, OMG! and Wonderwall—are corporate owned (by Time Warner, Yahoo and Microsoft, respectively). Far less idiosyncratic in tone, none has inspired the intensely passionate love/hate reactions engendered by Hilton, who produces as many as 60 posts a day with two people: his younger sister, Barbara (Barby) Lavandeira, 25, and a recent college graduate whom he declined to name. “Why do you want to know that?” he said “It’s all about me!”

Increasingly, he is a force to be reckoned with in other spheres of pop culture as well. On July 21, Hilton launched his own music imprint, Perezcius Music, for Warner Bros. Records. While he is trying to come up with a fresh idea for a TV entertainment news show, he has Radio Perez, a daily gossip report for Citadel Broadcasting that runs in 55 markets. It’s recorded at home, in the Pepto Bismol-pink guest bedroom he converted to a closet brimming with free clothes and shoes. (“I love mah freebies.”) This week, he is preparing to debut a second Web site aimed squarely at his vast number of female twenty-something fans.

Every time Hilton, whose real name is Mario Lavandeira, utters the sort of outrage that would land him in prison for life if the world were governed by laws of good taste and kindness, his popularity—and by exten-



Perez Hilton is the celebrity blogger, the self-designated Queen of All Media, whose website is among the most popular on the Web. His reach is ever-expanding. He’s on the radio every day, on TV frequently, has written a book and recently started a new music imprint with Warner Bros. He is also preparing to launch a new website.

get a real-world comeuppance. “People don’t want to see you hurt,” Tweeted John Mayer in an exchange with Hilton. “They want to see you experience something equalizing. ... Today, the fourth wall came crashing down.”

One Hollywood publicist who represents high-profile actors frequently in Hilton’s cross hairs and didn’t want to be named for fear of compromising her clients said she respects his work ethic and that he has built a business from scratch, but she doesn’t worry about what he writes, invest time cultivating him or think about him when planning a campaign.

“He is literally not on my radar unless I want to go on and laugh about something,” she said, adding that many of her clients find him toxic and vengeful.

“Do I think he has a genuine impact on how the world sees talent? I don’t think so.”

Some major celebrities have gone out of their way to cultivate him, though.

“I am such the 13-year-old girl!”

A music fanatic who can’t sing or play an instrument, he has boosted the careers of a number of pop acts, including Adele, Katy Perry, Mika, Lady Gaga (his current passion) and newcomer Eric Hutchinson, whose album “Sounds Like This” went from total obscurity to No. 5 on the iTunes album list and became the object of a record label bidding war after Hilton posted four of his songs in September 2007.

“You grow up thinking you want a single on the radio or your video on MTV,” said Hutchinson. “I never thought the way to get my music going was to get the right person on a blog to give it exposure. He put a spotlight on me at the right time, and the momentum was suddenly there.”

Hilton discovered Hutchinson the way he discovers all new music: Someone—in this case, a high school friend of Hutchinson’s—e-mailed him. “People don’t know how to reach record labels, and a lot of time labels don’t listen

Hilton, who is generous with his time and doesn’t bother with ground rules and minders, was recently the subject of a cover story in the Advocate and a profile in Entertainment Weekly. He was furious about the Advocate piece, in which the writer was dismissive of his intellect. (“He’s not a deep or nuanced thinker and seems generally unwilling ... to look critically at himself. ... He doesn’t strike me as all that intellectually honest,” wrote Benoit Denizet-Lewis.)

“He basically called me stupid,” said Hilton. “I am not stupid. I don’t think I have to prove that to anyone.”

Even his critics don’t doubt his smarts. “Clearly he is an intelligent businessman,” said the publicist who would not be named.

“I deal with an awful lot of bloggers, and a lot are smart,” said Copeland. “Perez is brilliant. It’s a classic success story for the post-publishing environment, in which you’ve got a very low overhead and a really dynamic rela-

make him less popular than Kim Kardashian (1.6 million) but more popular than Mariah Carey (1 million). There is no question that Perez Hilton is read by millions, is rich and is getting richer.

Reader surveys show that the typical Perez Hilton reader is a 26-year-old college-educated white woman who seldom goes to church, is a Democrat and does not shop at Wal-Mart. His new Web site, he said, will be squarely aimed at her, although he would not disclose more. Copeland said the new site is a response to advertisers asking for something different.

If Perez Hilton is not sorry for the things he has done, the events of the last few months have prompted some self-reflection and brought home a few truths:

■ There really is no such thing as bad publicity. Dethroned Miss California Carrie Prejean, he said, “is more famous now than the actual Miss USA winner!” precisely because he called her a “dumb bitch,” although he found the ensuing deluge of angry e-mail from Christian conservatives really annoying.

■ Planet Earth and Planet Perez are one and the same. Hilton blew up at will.i.am because he felt he was being browbeaten by the singer for trashing the Black Eyed Peas’ latest single, “Boom Boom Pow.” It never occurred to him that his provocation—calling the singer a “faggot”—could lead to violence. “We weren’t in a real-world setting,” said Hilton. “We were at an industry event!” How wrong he was: “In the real world, if you use words like that, you better believe there can be real physical and violent consequences. I learned that the hard way.”

■ The physical suffering of others should never be mocked. “After the Toronto incident,” said Hilton, “I didn’t even want to look people in the eye at the gym. The shame came from people saying I had it coming—it was karma. Even though you may think someone is a douche, you shouldn’t mock a victim of violence because that victimizes them again. I am much more compassionate now.”

Unless, of course, you are one of his favorite targets. Since that epiphany, he has continued to trash Lily Allen as a “cheap ho,” Prejean as a “bitch” (again), Sienna Miller as “Sluttienna,” Mischa Barton as “Mushy Fartone” and Rumer Willis as “Potato Head.”

Compassion is not exactly good for business.

Jackson film greenlit; merchandise gets a yellow

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge greenlit a major Michael Jackson movie deal Monday, and the film is scheduled to be in theaters later this year. The accompanying Michael Jackson merchandise will have to wait—for now.

The film, crafted from hundreds of hours of behind-the-scenes and rehearsal footage shot in Los Angeles weeks before Jackson was to kick off his 50 "This Is It" concerts in London, will also feature interviews with Jackson's friends and collaborators. Portions of the movie will be shown in 3-D.

"People who have seen this footage are astounded by the amazing quality of Michael Jackson's performance," said Michael Lynton, chairman and CEO of Sony Pictures Entertainment. "This historic recording of the last time he sang and danced on stage shows the leg-



Michael Jackson rehearses at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

endary artist in an incredibly powerful way, with crystal clear images and sound."

Fans will have to wait a bit longer before official Jackson merchandise hits store shelves

or a museum exhibit of the singer's memorabilia is displayed.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff delayed approving a pair of lucrative contracts after attorneys for

Jackson's mother, Katherine, raised a series of objections. Attorneys spent hours trying to work out a deal, but Beckloff ultimately delayed a ruling and appointed an independent attorney to represent Jackson's three children in estate matters.

It is unclear how much the deals are worth, but attorneys for the companies advocating them said the delay could cost Jackson's heirs a substantial amount of money. Katherine Jackson and her grandchildren are set to receive a combined 80 percent of the pop superstar's estate.

The estate will grow richer with a deal Beckloff approved between Jackson's estate, concert promoter AEG Live and Columbia Pictures, which is owned by Sony Pictures Entertainment.

Under the terms of the proposed contract, the film, slated to arrive in theaters on Oct. 30, will have to be screened for Jackson's estate and cannot include any footage that puts the superstar in a bad light.

Burt Levitch, an attorney for Katherine Jackson, expressed concerns that the film will feature Jackson's three children, but an attorney for AEG Live denied the youngsters were included in the footage.

Columbia Pictures paid \$60 million for rights to the film, and the contract states Jackson's estate is slated to receive 90 percent of its profits.

Jackson died on June 25, days before he was set to embark to England for his comeback shows.

Beckloff had until Monday to approve the film and allowed Jackson's mother, Katherine, to review the contracts and raise any objections. Katherine Jackson did not object to the film, but her attorneys have raised questions about other agreements concerning AEG Live and merchandiser Bravado. The estate wants to enter into agreements with the two companies for a museum show of Jackson memorabilia and merchandising.

The memorabilia show would be on display in three cities which have not yet been announced.

A proposed agreement calls for Bravado to receive worldwide rights to Jackson merchandise, including items such as trading cards, apparel and cell phone themes.

Levitch, an attorney for Katherine Jackson, said he has raised several issues with the proposed agreements. He said he was "not sure (AEG) would have been the first choice" to put on the museum tour.

Katherine Jackson's attorneys have frequently cited possible investigations into AEG's conduct and conflict of interests during court hearings.

Attorneys for the promoter and the current administrators of Jackson's estate say they are unaware of any investigation by police or government regulators. Kathy Jorrie, an attorney for AEG, said the company would comply with any investigative inquiries.

In Vienna, a Jackson tribute fit for a king

VIENNA (AP)—It's a concert venue fit for a king—even the King of Pop.

Vienna's majestic Schoenbrunn Palace, once home to Emperor Franz Joseph and his wasp-waisted consort, Empress Sisi, will serve as the backdrop for what organizers billed Monday as a "global" farewell tribute to Michael Jackson next month.

WorldAwardsMedia GmbH, the promoter, said members of Jackson's family and a "high-profile lineup of international stars" will perform on a multi-media stage built in the shape of a giant crown on the palace's sculpted grounds.

"For one incredible night Michael Jackson's unforgettable music will be brought to life again," World Awards Media said on its Web site. "Some of the world's leading artists will perform Michael's greatest hits live in Vienna in front of one of the most fascinating historical sites in Europe and celebrate the life of the 'King of Pop.'"

Jackson's brother Jermaine



In this March 27, 2007 file picture, Schoenbrunn castle in Vienna, Austria, is shown.

said recently that Vienna was special for Michael, who "loved castles." Tickets go on sale Aug. 20.

Organizers said Jermaine Jackson and other family members would perform some of Jackson's hits. They would not confirm reports that the tribute may include U2, Madonna, Lionel Richie and Whitney Houston, and said a date would be announced soon.

World Awards Media chief Georg Kindel said the event would be held in the first part of September. Jackson died June 25 in Los Angeles.

Many had expected the

tribute to be held in London, where Jackson was booked to perform a series of concerts, or a larger European capital such as Berlin, Paris or Rome.

But Friday, on "Larry King Live," Jermaine Jackson said Vienna was "a very dear place for Michael," who performed several times in the Austrian capital over the years.

"And he loved castles. And we're going to have this huge celebration in front of a castle," Jermaine Jackson said.

Spokespeople for British promoter AEG Live, which had been organizing Jackson's London concerts, had no im-

mediate comment on the Vienna tribute. But London fans expressed displeasure.

"If he likes castles, they could've done it anywhere in the UK. We've got them here, too," said Peter Chowng, a 42-year-old London businessman.

Kindel said he hoped to secure official permission within the next eight days to hold the concert at Schoenbrunn.

The venue has enough standing room to accommodate 85,000 people. The daily Oesterreich said giant screens would be set up in parks around Vienna to handle the huge overflow crowds expected.

Results of Jackson autopsy to remain sealed

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Coroner's investigators have completed their probe into the death of Michael Jackson but are not releasing the results yet, authorities said Monday.

The Los Angeles County coroner's office said police investigators requested that facts about what killed Jackson remain under a security hold while detectives investigate the events leading up to the pop icon's death.

Neither the coroner's office nor the Police Department would indicate when the results might be made public.

Jackson died June 25 after his personal physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, found him not breathing in bed. Despite efforts to revive him, Jackson never regained consciousness.

Investigators have been trying to determine to what extent medications may have contributed to his death at age 50. Murray told investigators he administered the powerful anesthetic propofol and multiple sedatives to Jackson in the hours before he died, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press. The official spoke on condition of ano-

nymity because the investigation is ongoing.

Murray's attorney, Edward Chernoff, has previously said the doctor did not prescribe anything that "should have" killed Jackson.

The investigation into Murray's background has already seen investigators serve search warrants at his properties in Las Vegas and Houston, where they seized computer hard drives, correspondence and other items. Court documents show investigators consider Jackson's death a possible manslaughter and that,

"If people are trying to get spontaneous statements or something that is not rehearsed or planned, not having the results out might help do that," Goldman said.

Death & Funeral Announcement

Ramon Aguon Sanchez

Fondly known as "Ta Bo or Ramon Palau"
Born September 11, 1946 Died August 6, 2009

Parents:	† Vicente Luis Sanchez † Margarita Aguon Sanchez † Vicente Muna Cabrera † Maria Palacios Cabrera
Parents-in-Law:	† Margarita Cabrera Sanchez † Vicente Aguon Sanchez † Frances Sanchez Sablan
Daughter:	
Brother:	
Sister:	

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Stepdaughter, Children & Grandchildren:

- ◆ Ana / Manuel Santos
- ◆ Frances Marie C. Santos
- ◆ Jessie Satunino C. Santos
- ◆ Cheryl Ann C. Santos
- ◆ Mercy Ann C. Santos
- ◆ Mary Ann C. Santos

Adoptive Children:

- ◆ Shenna Crystal Sanchez
- ◆ Den Mar Sanchez
- ◆ Katherine Sanchez

Ramon is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces and relatives.

Daily mass is being offered every morning at 6:00am at Mt. Carmel Cathedral unit and nightly rosary is being said at his residence in Chalan Kanoa District #3 at 7:00pm.

On August 14, 2009 Friday, his remains will be escorted from CHC by Borja's Funeral Home at 7:00am to his residence in Chalan Kanoa District #3, and at 10:45am, his remains will be escorted to Mt. Carmel Cathedral and followed by his Burial Mass at 11:00am.

Thank you for thoughts and prayers.

Children and Family

Biological Children & Grandchildren:

- ◆ Arlene S. / Ramon Cabrera
 - ◆ Vicente / Jovie Villanueva
 - ◆ Jovan Villanueva (Great-grandson)
 - ◆ Bryan C. Sanchez
 - ◆ Hildegarde S. Cabrera
 - ◆ Raymond S. Cabrera, Jr.
 - ◆ Lillian S. / Ervie Sunga
 - ◆ Nadine S. Sunga
 - ◆ Starr S. Sunga
 - ◆ Ernesto Ray P.J. S. Sunga
 - ◆ Michael C. Sanchez / Linda
 - ◆ Raymon T. Sanchez
 - ◆ Vicente Michael Sanchez
 - ◆ Melvin Sanchez, Jr.
 - ◆ Audie Boy Sanchez
 - ◆ Vincent Joseph C. Sanchez
 - ◆ Francis C. Sanchez / Annabelle
 - ◆ Olivia Mae Sanchez
 - ◆ Edward C. Sanchez
 - ◆ Joaquin C. Sanchez / Jonisa DLGuerrero
 - ◆ Evelyn C. Sanchez
 - ◆ Margarit Edralyn Sanchez
 - ◆ Jessica Sanchez

'Twilight' sinks fangs into Teen Choice Awards

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP)—“Twilight” struck a vein at the Teen Choice Awards.

The adolescent vampire drama dominated Sunday’s ceremony with 11 wins, including choice movie drama, romance, liplock, rumble and soundtrack. Kristen Stewart won the movie drama actress category while Robert Pattinson picked up two surfboard-shaped trophies—one for movie drama actor, another for male hottie.

“We’ll see you guys in theaters November 20th,” co-star Taylor Lautner teased the squealing crowd.

Lautner and Ashley Greene, who will appear alongside Stewart and Pattinson in the upcoming “Twilight” sequel “New Moon,” were honored as the male and female movie fresh faces while Cam Gigandet was crowned movie villain.

“Twilight” director Catherine Hardwicke joined the cast on stage to accept the adaptation’s pack of trophies.

The Teen Choice Awards, which were selected by over 83 million votes cast online, honor celebrities in TV, film, music and sports. Several winners—including 16-year-old Miley Cyrus and show hosts the Jonas Brothers—took home multiple trophies at the 11th annual ceremony at Universal Studios Hollywood’s Gibson Amphitheatre.

Cyrus sailed away with six awards, winning for comedy TV show and actress for “Hannah Montana;” music/dance movie actress and hissy fit for “Hannah Montana: The Movie;” music single for “The Climb” and summer song for “Before the Storm” with the Jonas Brothers. Cyrus also presented Britney Spears the ultimate choice award.

“I’m a huge fan of hers,” Cyrus said before a subdued Spears accepted her own surfboard.

The Jonas Brothers won five trophies, including choice male red carpet icons. They kicked off the show performing on a tiny stage that moved through the audience. Throughout the taped ceremony, the trio completed dares submitted by fans. At one point, younger brother Nick was challenged to hug a lineup of female fans.

“It’s just hugs,” Joe cautioned the women. “You’re not going for long-term relationships here, girls.”

Other big winners included “Gossip Girl” and Zac Efron. Chace Crawford, Leighton Meester and Ed Westwick picked up TV drama actor, actress, villain and TV series awards for the suds CW show while Efron won for music/

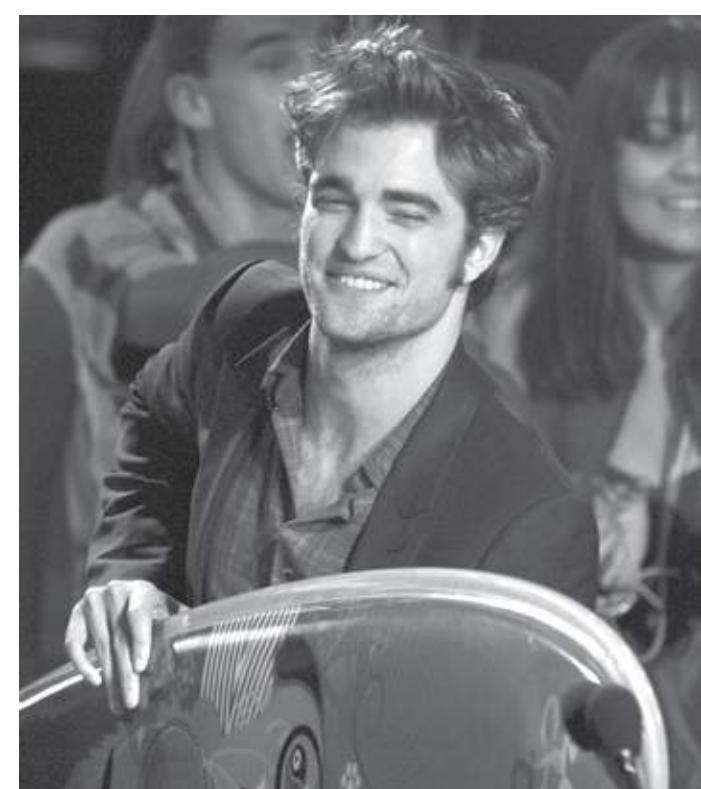
dance movie actor in “High School Musical 3” and comedy movie actor and rockstar moment in “17 Again.”

The ceremony itself was peppered with several odd moments.

Kathy Griffin arrived on the red carpet with Levi Johnston, the teenage ex-fiance of Bristol Palin, daughter of former Alaska governor Sarah Palin. Mike Tyson took shears to Joe Jonas’ head as part of stunt. And before presenting the choice hottie awards, comedian Dane Cook pleaded to Vanessa Hudgens to keep her clothes on.

The Teen Choice Awards is scheduled to air Monday at 8 p.m. EDT on Fox.

Actor Robert Pattinson accepts the Twilight Award at the Teen Choice Awards on Sunday Aug. 9, 2009, in Universal City, Calif.



40 years later, Woodstock still fascinates

BETHEL, N.Y. (AP)—Forty years after Richie Havens sang and strummed for a sea of people at Woodstock, he still gets asked about it and he still gets requests to sing “Freedom.”

He’s not surprised.

“Everything in my life, and so many others’, is attached to that train,” Havens said.

The young hippies who watched the sun come up with The Who in 1969 are now eligible for early bird specials. Many of the bands are broken up or missing members who died. But Woodstock remains one of those events—like the moon landing earlier that summer—that continues to define the 1960s in the popular imagination.

Consider the bumper crop of Woodstock nostalgia marking the 40th anniversary. There’s a new director’s cut DVD of the concert movie, a remastered concert CD, director Ang Lee’s rock ‘n’ roll comedy “Taking Woodstock” and a memoir by promoter Michael Lang. There are also performances scheduled by Woodstock veterans at the old site, now home to a ‘60s museum and an outdoor concert pavilion.

The Woodstock legend stems from big names such as Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin playing at a show where everything went wrong but turned out right.

The town of Woodstock didn’t want the concert and promoters were bounced from another site at the 11th hour. Lang settled on a hay field



In this Aug. 1969 file photo, concert-goers sit on the roof of a Volkswagen bus at the Woodstock Music and Arts Fair at Bethel, N.Y.

In Bethel owned by a kindly dairy farmer named Max Yasgur. The concert did come off Aug. 15-18, 1969, but barely. Fences were torn down, tickets became useless. More than 400,000 people converged on this rural corner 80 miles northwest of New York City, freezing traffic for miles. Then the rains doused everything.

It should have been a di-

saster. But Americans tuning in to the evening news that weekend saw smiling, dancing, muddy kids. By the time the concert movie came out months later, Woodstock was a symbol of the happy, hippie side of the ‘60s spirit.

It still is.

Baby boomers are the “Woodstock Generation”—not the “Monterey Generation” or

the “Altamont Generation.” Bethel’s onsite museum has logged more than 70,000 visitors since last summer, a fair number of them college students born well after Woodstock. A roadside monument there regularly logs visitors from around the planet.

“It’s almost a pilgrimage,” said Wade Lawrence, director of the Museum at Bethel Woods. “It’s like going to a high school reunion, or it’s like visiting a grave site of a loved one.”

From Lollapalooza to All Points West, there have been plenty of big festivals focused on youth culture. The continent-hopping Live Aid shows of 1985 did that and more, enlisting top names such as U2 and Madonna to fight hunger in Africa. None have the cultural cachet of Woodstock. Who would ever ask a Generation X-er: “Were you really at Live Aid?”

People who went to Woodstock say the crowd set it apart as much as the music. The trippy anarchy of Woodstock has become legend: lots of nudity, casual sex, dirty (and muddy) dancing, open drug use. The stage announcer famously warned people to steer clear of the brown acid.

Many who were there recall Woodstock as an oasis of good vibes during a time of unrest over the Vietnam War. Ilene Marder, then an 18-year-old who hitched from the Bronx, saw people feeding one another and respecting one another. She knew she found her tribe.

Jury begins deliberation in C-Murder’s US trial

GRETNA, Louisiana (AP)—Jurors decided to call it a night after nine hours of deliberations Monday without reaching a verdict in the second-degree murder trial of rapper Corey “C-Murder” Miller.

The panel, which will be sequestered overnight, was to return Tuesday morning to resume their discussion.

Lawyers for Miller said in closing arguments Monday that testimony by two prosecution witnesses wasn’t strong enough to overcome the lack of physical evidence linking the entertainer to the slaying of a teenage fan.

Prosecutors, meanwhile, painted Miller as a thug who shot the 16-year-old who regarded him as a hero during a brawl in a Harvey, Louisiana, nightclub in 2002.

Once the arguments had wrapped up, jurors began deliberating on whether Miller is guilty of second-degree murder in the death of Steve Thomas, but soon indicated they were having trouble reaching a consensus. At least 10 of the 12 jurors must agree on a verdict.

After 3 1/2 hours, the panel of seven women and five men sent a note to state District Judge Hans Liljeberg saying, “We have a vote and can’t go forward. No one will change their vote. How do we proceed?” The judge told them to continue deliberating.

The 38-year-old Miller would face a mandatory life term if convicted of second-degree murder. The jury could also

find him guilty of manslaughter, which carries a maximum sentence of 40 years.

Thomas had used a fake ID to get into the club to take part in a rap contest Miller was attending, hoping to impress his idol, but sparked a clash instead and was shot, according to testimony during the trial. Prosecutors David Wolff and Shannon Swaim said Miller shot

Thomas as the youth lay on the floor, being beaten and kicked by a group of Miller’s friends.

If Steve Thomas were here today, he’d be 23,” Swaim said in an impassioned closing statement. “He’d want you to know C-Murder isn’t his hero anymore. The last time he looked up to him was Jan. 12, 2002. And the last time he looked up to him, he shot him.”

With no physical evidence to tie Miller to the murder, prosecutors relied on the testimony of two witnesses—Darneil Jordan Sr. and Kenneth Jordan, who are not related.

Darneil Jordan, a security guard at the club, testified that he saw Miller reach under the crowd beating Thomas then saw a flash and heard the shot. He said he never saw the gun.

Jordan changed his story several times and originally described the shooter as much shorter and stockier than the tall, thin Miller.

Kenneth Jordan said Miller strode into the crowd, leaned down and shot Thomas one time.

Spielberg in talks over contract with theme park

ORLANDO, Florida (AP)—Universal Orlando officials are negotiating with Steven Spielberg over whether to renew a consulting contract. Tracey Stockwell, principal financial officer of Universal’s parent com-

pany, said in a conference call Friday that the theme park resort is hoping for a quick resolution.

Under the contract, Spielberg gets a flat fee and a percentage of revenues of movie or television-themed attractions in exchange

for advising the theme park resort and working on other projects around the world.

Although there is no expiration date for the arrangement, starting in June 2010, Spielberg has the right to end it. He can

then can get a single lump sum payment based on his interests in the Orlando parks and other projects around the world.

Universal’s regulatory filings Friday did not disclose the amount involved.

Kate Gosselin still wears her wedding ring

NEW YORK (AP)—Kate Gosselin said her marriage to Jon would have failed whether it played out in the glare of a TV reality show or not.

"Was (divorce) a product of the show? I feel like it would have happened anyway—cameras on or cameras off," she said.

Appearing on NBC's "Today" Monday, Kate Gosselin discussed her separation from her husband, which was announced in June on their TLC network reality show, "Jon & Kate Plus 8."

Despite their separation, both parents continue with the hit show, which documents the challenges of rais-

ing twins and sextuplets.

"In everybody's life, you make sacrifices," Gosselin said, referring to her staying with the show. "Everybody has to work. Everybody has a job. Ours is a very unique job...."

"I still feel like this is a good thing. It's healthy. And the kids would agree."

Gosselin told "Today" host Meredith Vieira that she still wears her wedding ring for the sake of her eight children, but feels a lot of failure that the marriage is over.

"This is not what any mother sets out for, for her children," Gosselin said, adding, "It's necessary. It has to take place."



Kate Gosselin dries her eyes during her interview on the NBC "Today" television program in New York Monday, Aug. 10, 2009.

Fox network to air two-hour 'Octomom' special

NEW YORK (AP)—The Fox network said Monday it will air a two-hour special on the life of "Octomom" Nadya Suleman, based on footage bought from an online company that paid for access to her life.

Called "Octomom: The Incredible Unseen Footage," Fox has scheduled the show for 8 p.m. EDT Aug. 19.

Suleman, already a single mother of six, gave birth to octuplets Jan. 26. Curiosity about Suleman turned to some outrage after it became clear that the single, unemployed mother had been using student loans and Social Security disability payments to help pay for her children's care.

Last month, a California judge appointed a lawyer to oversee the estate of the octuplets, saying he wanted to make sure they weren't exploited by paid ventures like reality shows.

Footage of Suleman caring for her children was shot by RadarOnline, which struck its own deal with the mother for access. RadarOnline sold access to the footage to a production company, Pilgrim Films & Entertainment, for an undisclosed fee, and Pilgrim made the deal for the special with Fox.

Folk music revivalist Seeger dies at 75

LEXINGTON, Va. (AP)—Mike Seeger, who helped revive traditional American folk music, has died at age 75.

Seeger's wife, Alexia Smith, said Monday that Seeger died of cancer Friday night at their home in Lexington, Va.

Seeger was born in New York City and raised near Washington, D.C., in a musical family. Two of his siblings became key figures in the folk music revival of the 1950s and 1960s: his half brother, Pete, and sister Peggy.

Mike Seeger associated with traditional musicians such as Maybelle Carter and Dock Boggs. He sang and played a number of instruments, including banjo, fiddle and guitar, and helped form the traditional music group The New Lost City Ramblers in 1958.

Yet in a statement, Hello said: "Plans necessary for this correction are in hand now and it is expected that activities, including work in the theater, will resume within the immediate future." No specific date was given.

The duo's many hits include "Boot Scootin' Boogie," "My Maria," "Red Dirt Road" and "Cowgirls Don't Cry" with Reba McEntire.

Their label, Arista Nashville, said the group has sold more than 30 million albums.

Brooks, 54, and Dunn, 56, were struggling solo artists when Arista's Tim DuBois urged them to join forces in 1990. Together they've scored 23 No. 1 hits.

They've recorded 10 studio albums, the latest 2007's "Cowboy Town."

The pair steeped themselves

She greeted inquiries from Vieira about Jon Gosselin's alleged cheating during their marriage with a mix of vagueness and diplomacy, and said she couldn't recall exactly when he moved out of their Pennsylvania house.

"I think it's very clear that we are two different people at this point, with two different sets of goals," she summed up.

She repeated her past denial of media reports that she had an affair with a bodyguard assigned to protect her for the show.

"There is no affair. There has never been an affair," declared Gosselin. "It's just another crazy rumor. It sells tabloids."



In this Sept. 12, 2007 file photo, Kix Brooks, left, and Ronnie Dunn of the country duo Brooks & Dunn pose for a portrait at The Factory in Franklin, Tenn.

Brooks & Dunn call it quits after 20 years

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Brooks & Dunn are done.

The best-selling country duo posted a message on its Web site Monday saying they've agreed to "call it a day" after 20 years of making music together.

"This ride has been everything and more than we could ever have dreamed... We owe it all to you, the fans," Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn said in the message. "If you hear rumors, don't believe them, it's just time."

Brooks & Dunn will release a greatest-hits album on Sept. 8 and tour one last time in 2010.

in the mythical West (their emblem is a sun-bleached steer's skull) and rode the charts with a driving honky-tonk sound. They took a turn with 2003's "Red Dirt Road" and often pay homage to their classic rock influences, including playing shows with the Rolling Stones and ZZ Top.

Brooks & Dunn won the Country Music Association's vocal duo of the year award every year between 1992 and 2006, except for 2000.

The CMA named them entertainer of the year in 1996.

Financial difficulties snare B'way 'Spider-Man'

NEW YORK (AP)—Has "Spider-Man, Turn Off the Dark" been caught in a web of financial difficulties?

Hello Entertainment, one of its producers, says work on the lavish Broadway-bound musical has been suspended until the resolution of an "unexpected cash flow problem."

Yet in a statement, Hello said: "Plans necessary for this correction are in hand now and it is expected that activities, including work in the theater, will resume within the immediate future."

The musical is still scheduled to begin preview performances Feb. 25 at the Hilton Theatre, although no opening date has been set.

"Spider-Man" reportedly has a budget of upward of \$40 million, and the Hilton has undergone extensive renovation to accommodate the show, which will be directed by Julie Taymor and features a score by Bono and The Edge of U2.

Taymor was the creative force behind "The Lion King," Disney's long-running musical, now in its second decade on

Broadway. She will co-write the "Spider-Man" book with Glen Berger.

The story for the musical was inspired by the Marvel comic books hero—who's also inspired three hit movies—and will include the story of his origins as well as new material.

No casting has been announced for the show's title character but Evan Rachel Wood will portray Peter Parker's girlfriend, Mary Jane Watson, and Alan Cumming is set for the role of Norman Osborn, the musical's villainous Green Goblin.

Daughter complains that dad only has eyes for girlfriend

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I was 11 when my father left. I'm 16 now and it is still very difficult for my mom and me. Dad was involved in my life until he met his 28-year-old girlfriend. He's 54.

I have told him I'm not comfortable around her and I don't want to be in her company. It's embarrassing when they hold hands and hug in front of me and my friends. I spend one night a week at Dad's and I want him all to myself. Even when I'm there he locks himself in his room and spends all night talking on the phone with her. I have asked him to pay attention to me, but he doesn't get it.

Last year, he told me he "had a dream" that I was going to get a little sister or brother. He asked how I felt about that, and I was honest. I told him thinking about him having sex with a woman so young makes me sick. Dad doesn't see that she's using him for money and a green card. I want him to be discreet and keep his private life private.

I live with my mom six nights a week, and I think that gives Dad plenty of time to spend with his girlfriend. What can I do to get him to focus on me on our one night a week together?

MISSES MY DAD IN RHODE ISLAND



DEAR MISSES YOUR DAD: Your father's girlfriend may make him feel like he's 16 again, but that isn't an excuse for him to act like it.

You have communicated clearly to him that you need more of his attention than he's giving. The next person to deliver that message should be your mother. Perhaps he will pay more attention if he hears it from another adult.

In two years you will be 18 and gone. The time he has with you now is precious and he should recognize that fact and stop squandering it.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My children are grown and gone. The youngest left more than four years ago. For the last several years I have asked them to remove their stored items from my house, which is still crammed with their stuff I'm not supposed to move.

I have finally scheduled a Dumpster for a two-week period convenient for me and let everyone know they need to "claim it or lose it." One daughter, "Lynette," has decided that because I won't change the dates to suit her schedule—of which she isn't even sure—she will consider me "dead" to her.

Obviously this has hurt me deeply. I realize that Lynette thinks the world revolves around her, but don't I have the right to clean out my home at my convenience? Do I owe her more notice, even though most of the items have been here eight to 10 years?

I thought being assertive prevented people from walking all over you. It pains me that my daughter will no longer speak to me. She has also taken steps to keep other family members away as well.

Her older sister says she is overreacting and will come to her senses, but I'm not sure. I'm divorced from her father, so there is little support there. Should I proceed with my plans?

IN A MESS IN VERMONT

DEAR IN A MESS: Being assertive will prevent people from walking all over you only if you stick to your guns and don't give in to emotional blackmail. Lynette's reaction is calculated to hurt you.

In addition to showing some gratitude for your patience in keeping her old things for so long, she should make it her business to come over and collect those items that are still important to her. But if she chooses to sulk and not cooperate, do not allow her to force you into changing the schedule.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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range on Saipan

Fitial says decision to end
Aggreko 'far from certain'
CUC emergency extended anew

By HAGGIE V. EUGENIO
haggie.eugenio@saipantribune.com

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said the decision to terminate the contract of Aggreko International "is far from certain" a few weeks after saying the contract will no longer be renewed.

Aggreko's contract will expire on Sept. 12. However, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has to notify Aggreko this month whether its contract will be renewed.

See FITIAL on Page 4

RELATED NEWS
PAGE 6

2-hour islandwide power outage
due to fallen tree.

'CUC unlikely to meet EPA deadlines'

By HAGGIE V. EUGENIO
haggie.eugenio@saipantribune.com

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is unlikely to meet the federal stipulated order deadlines because of lack of funding and staff, according to Bruce Megar, deputy director for water and wastewater.

Megar reported this yesterday to the Public Utilities and Infrastructure Committee chaired by Rep. Tina Sablan in the Senate chamber.

In March, U.S. District Court Judge Alex Quigley ruled that the CUC must meet the PIC's requirements by the end of the year.

See CUC on Page 4

• Unlikely to meet Order Deadlines for Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act Regulation Given Current Funding and Staffing Levels.

• Current Staffing Less than 1 year Ago.

• Grants Dedicated to Meeting CWA/SDWA Regs Reprogrammed

• Critical Purchases

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9 percent drop in foreign investors

By HAGGIE V. EUGENIO
haggie.eugenio@saipantribune.com

Commerce Secretary Michael J. Ada said last week there was a 9 percent drop in the number of foreign investors, mostly from Asia, over the past two years.

Ada said the decline is due to the global economic slowdown.

See 9 PERCENT IN Page 4

INSIDE

MOVIE REVIEWS

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By HAGGIE

T'wolves pick Kurt Rambis as new coach



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—After years spent playing under Pat Riley and coaching under Phil Jackson, Kurt Rambis is finally getting a chance to run a team.

Rambis has been hired as coach of the Minnesota Timberwolves in hopes of transforming a struggling franchise into a contender. Terms were not disclosed, but the team said Monday that they have an agreement. Rambis will be introduced Tuesday.

The 51-year-old Rambis has been an assistant with the Los Angeles Lakers for most of the past seven seasons. He won four titles as a player with the Lakers in the 1980s and two more as an assistant coach, including last season when he served as the team's defensive coordinator.

Rambis was one of three finalists along with TV commentator and former NBA star Mark Jackson and Houston assistant Elston Turner. He will replace Kevin McHale, who was let go by Minnesota on June 17.

"This arguably is the most important decision I will make, and thus it required a lot of time," said David Kahn, who was hired in May to run the team's basketball operations. "His reputation around the league is that he is a wonderful teacher who is hands-on on the court and one who understands that part of our business and will really energize it."

The teaching reference is not a throwaway. Kahn also said he believes Rambis is a natural fit to mold the "young" Timberwolves, who have not made the playoffs since 2004 and won just 24 games last season.

Rambis' work in player development was one of the biggest reasons Kahn chose him. At a press conference, Kahn said the three most important criteria he was looking for in a coach were an emphasis on player development, an up-tempo philosophy and a willingness to play the young players on the team big minutes—even if it means sacrificing a few wins in the process.

Those are bold challenges for any



This is an Oct. 7, 2008, file photo showing Los Angeles Lakers assistant coach Kurt Rambis yelling to his team in the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Utah Jazz in Anaheim, Calif.

Brees back with Saints after mother's death



METAIRIE, La. (AP)—Drew Brees returned to Saints training camp for a pair of practices on Monday after leaving the team over the weekend to attend to the death of his mother, Mina Brees, in Colorado.

Brees said he expects to play in the Saints' preseason opener on Friday night, but also believes he will be excused from training camp again next week to attend a memorial service.

"It was good to be obviously back and to get back to work and get your mind back on football," Brees said after the second practice on Monday evening. "It was a long weekend. It was a tough weekend."

"But just to be back around the guys, everybody was so supportive. This is a big part of my family, too."

A medical examiner said Mina Brees, an attorney from Austin, Texas, died Friday in Grand County, Colo., a mountainous area about 50 miles northwest of Denver. Cindy Eller, the county's chief deputy coroner, said the cause of death remained under investigation on Monday.

Brees said he did not have any up-



New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) participates in the morning practice session at the club's NFL football training camp in Metairie, La., Monday, Aug. 10, 2009.

dates regarding the cause of death and indicated he'd rather not discuss the matter at length, at least not publicly.

"I appreciate everybody giving their condolences and everything, but ... I'd

rather deal with it, move on, and I'm trying to," he said.

Shortly before the first practice on Monday morning, Brees briefly addressed teammates to thank them for their support, wide receiver Lance Moore said.

"He told everybody he appreciated us and everything, and we love the guy so we're glad to have him back," Moore said.

"I knew he would take care of his business and be back as soon as possible," Moore added. "I think it's a good thing because you're away from everything. You're on the field, and as much as you can, you're thinking about football and nothing else."

The Saints are scheduled to practice with the Texans in Houston next week before the teams meet in a preseason game there on Aug. 22. Brees said he expects to play in that game, as well.

"Some things are still up in the air," Brees said. "There's not a date for the memorial service next week yet, but once there is I'll be able to kind of finalize the plans. But as of now, I plan to be (in Houston) as much as I can."

coach in a league that often measures coaching stints in months, not years. But Kahn said it is his mission to make the Timberwolves "recognized around the league as the leaders in player development."

"He does understand that we may have to sacrifice some short-term results for the long-term vision as we grow this young nucleus as quickly as can be," Kahn said.

Long considered a possible heir apparent to Jackson in LA, Rambis filled in on several occasions while the coach was out with medical issues. He also served as the head coach in the lockout-shortened 1998-99 season, going 24-13. That experience gave him the edge over Mark Jackson, who has never been a coach.

Rambis also interviewed for positions in Sacramento and Philadelphia this offseason.

He takes over in Minnesota for McHale, the man who famously clotheslined him while playing for the

Boston Celtics in the 1984 Finals.

"Kurt has been the workhorse of my staff the past few years," Phil Jackson said in a statement issued by the Lakers. "He's worked with the youth of our team, coming in early and staying late, to help players develop."

"Last season he took on the responsibility as the defensive coordinator, a valuable part of our championship run. We will miss him, but know this is his time to do what he's destined to do."

With Al Jefferson, Kevin Love, Jonny Flynn and, eventually, Ricky Rubio, the Timberwolves do have a young core that they think they can build upon and they strive back toward respectability. With so many young players on the roster, Kahn wants Rambis to employ a run-and-gun style of play that Rambis is intimately aware of dating to his days playing for the showtime Lakers in the 1980s.

Kahn said was looking for a coach who "had that philosophy in their bones, and I think Kurt does."

NBA BRIEFS

Kahn: Rubio's buyout 'still very problematic'

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Minnesota Timberwolves president David Kahn said point guard Ricky Rubio's buyout situation is "still very problematic" and he remains unsure of when the fifth overall pick will come to the United States. Rubio has two years remaining on his contract with DVK Joventut Badalona, his professional team in Spain, and has yet to be able to negotiate down a buyout number that is at least \$6.6 million. "I believe his representatives are working diligently to get a solution. I have no idea at this point whether a solution can be reached. But I believe we kind of know what the parameters are and I think that we have a chance," Kahn said Monday after announcing that Lakers assistant Kurt Rambis will be the team's next head coach. "But I wouldn't even begin to state the percentage toward that chance of this being accomplished this season versus next season or even two seasons. It's still very problematic." The Timberwolves selected Rubio with

the No. 5 pick in the June draft, right before choosing another point guard in Jonny Flynn at No. 6. But they can only contribute \$500,000 toward the buyout under NBA rules, which handicaps their ability to convince an 18-year-old kid who made just \$97,000 to make a huge financial commitment to chase his dream in the league.

Nuggets lose Kleiza to Europe

DENVER (AP)—Restricted free agent forward Linas Kleiza of the Denver Nuggets is taking his game to Europe. Nuggets executive Mark Warkentien says Kleiza has chosen to play for Olympiakos, agreeing to a two-year deal worth more than \$12 million. Warkentien said Kleiza's agent, Bill Duffy, informed him of the signing Monday. Duffy was flying back from Europe and unavailable for comment. Kleiza was extended a qualifying offer by the Nuggets in June, making the backup player a restricted free agent and guaranteeing him a \$2.7 million salary this season. The Nuggets retain Kleiza's NBA rights.

Woods to be fined for criticism of rules official



CHASKA, Minn. (AP)—Tiger Woods will be fined by the PGA Tour for his public criticism of a rules official after winning the Bridgestone Invitational, a tour official said Monday.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the tour does not publicize fines.

Woods was bothered after his four-shot victory Sunday because he and Padraig Harrington were put on the clock at the par-5 16th. He said that caused Harrington to rush three difficult shots, leading to triple bogey.

European Tour chief referee John Paramor told Woods and Harrington they were being timed.

Woods said he told Harrington after it was over, "I'm sorry that John got in the way of a great battle."

Paramor said the final pairing was well behind most of the back nine, but officials gave them time to catch up. They were still 17 minutes out of po-

sition on the 16th tee, when they were put on the clock.

Woods hooked his tee shot, punched out to 178 yards and hit an 8-iron that stopped a foot from the hole for birdie. From the right trees, Harrington hit a 5-iron to the edge of a bunker, went over the green, then hit a flop shot too hard and into the water. The four-shot swing took the drama from one of the most compelling final rounds of the year.

"I don't think that Paddy would have hit the pitch shot that way if he was able to take his time, look at it, analyze it," Woods said. "But he was on the clock, had to get up there quickly and hit it."

Harrington conceded he was rushed, although he said it would be unfair to give the final group preferential treatment.

Section VI-D in the PGA Tour's player handbook says, "It is an obligation of membership to refrain from comments to the news media that unreasonably attack or disparage tournaments, sponsors, fellow members, players, or PGA Tour."

3 homers help Boston end 6-game losing streak



BOSTON (AP)— Nick Green hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly and one of Boston's three homers as the Red Sox ended a six-game losing streak with a 6-5 victory over the Detroit Tigers in the American League on Monday.

The Red Sox, who scored two runs in the final three games of a four-game sweep by the Yankees in New York, squandered a 5-3 lead when Manny Delcarmen allowed two runs in the seventh. They went back in front in the bottom of the inning on singles by J.D. Drew and Casey Kotchman and Green's sacrifice fly.

In the eighth, Detroit put runners at second and third with one out. Ramon Ramirez (6-3) struck out Adam Everett, and Jonathan Papelbon retired Curtis Granderson on a foul out. Papelbon got his 28th save.

Reliever Zach Miner (5-2) allowed Green's sacrifice fly in two innings.

Blue Jays 5, Yankees 4

At New York, Lyle Overbay and Aaron Hill hit solo homers as Toronto snapped New York's seven-game winning streak.

Overbay drove in two runs, and Edwin Encarnacion and Joe Inglett also drove in runs for the Blue Jays, who played an inspired game about 30 minutes after learning that teammate Alex Rios had been claimed off waivers by the Chicago White Sox.

Shawn Camp (1-5) picked up the win in relief of ineffective starter Marc Rzepczynski, who allowed three homers and didn't make it out of the fourth. The Blue Jays bullpen allowed four hits over 5 2-3 shutout innings, helping Toronto win for just the third time in 10 tries against the Yankees this season.

Jason Frasor worked the ninth for his fifth save.

Derek Jeter hit a homer on the third pitch of the game, and Robinson Cano and Jerry Hairston added back-to-back homers in the fourth for the Yankees.

Athletics 9, Orioles 1

At Baltimore, rookie pitcher Gio Gonzalez took a five-hit shutout into the seventh inning, and Mark Ellis had a career-high five hits and four RBIs for Oakland, which extended its winning streak against Baltimore to nine games.

After giving up two hits to start the seventh, Gonzalez (4-2) was pulled following a rain delay of 52 minutes. When play resumed, Craig Breslow got three straight outs to strand both runners in scoring position.

Gonzalez has won four straight decisions over a seven-game stretch.

The Athletics are 4-0 against Baltimore this season, and their nine-game run against the Orioles is the longest in Oakland history.

Jeremy Guthrie (7-12) allowed five runs and a season-high 11 hits in 4 2-3 innings and took over the AL lead in losses.

Luke Scott hit his 19th home run in the ninth to ruin Oakland's shutout bid, but the Orioles fell to 6-18 since the All-Star break.

Angels 8, Rays 7

At Anaheim, California, Vladimir Guerrero homered twice, including the 400th of his career to put the Angels ahead in the seventh inning, and Kendry Morales also hit two homers as Los Angeles



Boston Red Sox' Nick Green, left, celebrates with his teammates after beating the Detroit Tigers, 6-5, in their baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Monday Aug. 10, 2009. AP

edged Tampa Bay.

Guerrero extended his hitting streak to a season-high 12 games a week after coming off the disabled list for the second time this season. He is one of seven active major leaguers with 400 homers and 2,000 hits.

The Angels rallied four times before putting away the Rays, who fell to 8-15 overall against the AL West and 3-13 on the road.

Tampa Bay got homers from Jason Bartlett, who fell a single short of hitting for the cycle, and Carlos Pena in losing its second straight.

Kevin Jepsen (4-3) earned the victory, giving up one hit in two innings with two strikeouts and one walk.

Brian Fuentes pitched the ninth for his 32nd save. Ben Zobrist nearly tied the game with two outs, but Juan Rivera took his bid for a home run away with a catch in front of the short wall in the left field corner.

Mariners 6, White Sox 4

At Seattle, Kenji Johjima hit his first home run since May 25, a tie-breaking two-run shot in the sixth inning to lead Seattle past Chicago.

Playing on consecutive days for the first time since July 4-5, Johjima homered on the third pitch from reliever Tony Pena.

Johjima has played in 17 games since then as Seattle has chosen to have its established starting pitchers work with young catcher Rob Johnson.

Reliever Sean White (3-2) pitched 1

2-3 scoreless innings. David Aardsma allowed one hit in the ninth for his 27th save and Seattle won for the fifth time in seven games.

Carlos Quentin had two doubles, including a two-run liner in the sixth that gave Chicago a 4-3 lead. Russell Branyan tied the game in the bottom of the ninth with his 27th homer.

Gavin Floyd (9-7) allowed seven hits and five runs in 5 2-3 innings, losing for only the second time since May 27.

Rockies 11, Cubs 5

At Denver, Troy Tulowitzki hit for the cycle and had a career-high seven RBIs to help the Colorado Rockies beat the Chicago Cubs.

Tulowitzki, who had a grand slam denied in the first video review ever at Coors Field, led off the seventh a triple shy of the franchise's fifth cycle and first in nine years. He laced a 3-2 pitch down the left-field line and slid headfirst into the bag before third baseman Jake Fox could corral the throw from left.

Tulowitzki hit his 21st homer in the first, singled in the second and doubled in the fourth in his first three at-bats. He added a two-run single in the eighth to finish with five hits.

It was the sixth cycle in the majors this season.

Cardinals 4, Reds 1

At St. Louis, Kyle Lohse won for the first time since injuring his forearm more than 2 1/2 months ago, working

six effective innings in St. Louis' win over Cincinnati.

Colby Rasmus drew a bases-loaded walk in the fifth inning off Kip Wells (0-3) for the go-ahead run and Matt Holliday, Khalil Greene and Brendan Ryan hit balls off the wall in a two-run sixth. The NL Central leaders have won four straight, and at 63-51 are a season-high 12 games above .500.

Reds starter Johnny Cueto injured his left hip running out a grounder in the third and left the game.

Marlins 8, Astros 6

At Miami, Rick VandenHurk pitched five effective innings and five Florida players had at least one RBI as the Marlins beat Houston for their fourth straight win.

John Baker had two RBIs, and NL batting leader Hanley Ramirez had two singles and an RBI to help chase starter Brian Moehler (7-8) after five innings.

VandenHurk (2-1) struck out four and allowed two runs and five hits.

Darin Erstad had a home run and three RBIs for Houston.

Florida lost three straight last week to the last-place Washington Nationals and then went into Philadelphia for a three-game sweep.

Diamondbacks 7, Mets 4

At Phoenix, Doug Davis had a two-run double and won his third straight decision and Trent Oeltjen hit his third homer in four major league games as

Arizona handed New York its ninth loss in 12 games.

Arizona catcher Miguel Montero had three doubles and first baseman Chad Tracy had two run-scoring singles as the Diamondbacks beat the Mets for the fourth time in five meetings this season.

Arizona has won eight of 12 overall.

Davis hit a line drive to short center field that got past a diving Angel Pagan, scoring two runs to make it 3-0 in the second. Montero had driven in Mark Reynolds for the first run off Mike Pelfrey (8-8).

Fernando Tatis had a two-run triple off Davis (7-10) in the fourth inning.

Dodgers 4, Giants 2

At San Francisco, Matt Kemp hit a three-run double to back a strong effort from Hiroki Kuroda and help slumping Los Angeles win the opener of the key three-game series against San Francisco.

The first meeting in three months between the longtime foes came as the Giants had closed within 5 1/2 games of the first-place Dodgers in the NL West.

Los Angeles had lost three straight and 11 of 17 heading into the series.

Manny Ramirez sparked a four-run fourth inning with a one-out single. Following consecutive walks by Jonathan Sanchez (5-10) to load the bases, Kemp hit his double to clear the bases. Mark Loretta capped the inning with an RBI single.

25 riders cruise Naftan Express

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roelyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The long-delayed 2009 Inaugural Naftan Express Ride was worth the wait, as 25 riders cruised to a dry and easy course last Saturday.

"The first Naftan Express was a breath of sunshine. After weeks of foul weather, the clouds parted ways and the course dried quickly," said organizer Russ Quinn of the Saipan Adventure Sports Club.

The race was held at the fabled Naftan Point with the 25 riders divided into two groups. Fourteen took the A

course (one loop) and the rest opted for the Open course (two loops).

"There were 25 racers, including quite a few first-timers. This course was set up to entice beginners into the great world of mountain biking. The course was a single loop starting at Obyan Beach parking lot, heading toward Ladder

Beach around the fenced area of the airport out to Naftan and back. The course was 15 kilometers long and mostly flat and fun," Quinn added.

Veteran rider Butch Sublemente topped the open course, finishing the race in one hour, eight minutes, and 58 seconds. Joe Ngiraibuach was second at 1:04:44, while Florian Braig

completed the Top 3 with his time of 1:11:17.

Other finishers were Quinn (1:16:43), Cesar Fortaleza (1:18:20), Jake Van Dam (1:18:46), Renato Calage (1:20:44), Kimiko Hasegawa (1:29:14), Florence Antonio (1:30:15), Bruce Berline (1:32:55), and Jim Barry (1:49:10).

In the A course division, Chris Fryling was first to make it to the finish line, timing in at 40:40. Over a minute later, Rex

Kosack (41:51) came in to bag second place, while Ariel Garcia placed third with a time of 41:54. James Abuy (42:18) and Edgar Abalos (45:18) rounded out the Top 5.

Also completing the shorter course were Danny Calvo (47:14), Raymund Tolentino (48:18), Kanae Quinn (48:28), John Jenkins (48:38), Jackie Van Dam (48:49), Arvin Apasau (52:52), Jim Arenovski (56:55), Ben Babauta (57:05), and Alberta Carpenter (1:06:10).

CNMI

From Page 28

Guam last June.

Minor was given an automatic slot on the North Team and the POJC after a third place finish in last year's championships. Ji Hoon Heo also received an outright spot and will join his teammates in Fiji this weekend after playing in New Caledonia.

Decena was given the last entry to POJC, according to Race.

"I received a message from ITF-PO development officer

Dan O'Connell that Benjie Decena was invited to join the team. Benjie is a good player and will add depth to our squad," Race said.

Race said after the selection for the North Pacific Team was made, the Commonwealth's players quickly started their preparation for the tournament in Fiji.

"All the players have been getting a lot of hitting this summer, weather permitting. Considering my absence, I think they've done really well practicing. They have been practicing with me 2 to 3 hours a day

since I got back last week," Race said.

"Raffy Jones had the best preparation, having spent three weeks at Pat Cash Tennis Academy in Gold Coast, Australia. Christian is coming off a chicken pox, so he is not 100 percent, but should be by the time the event starts," he added.

The CNMI coach is expecting Jones and Miller to do better in their return trip to Fiji.

"Raffy and Christian could do very well this year. Partly their finishes will depend upon players from New Caledonia and Tahiti being sent.

Usually they are very tough. I would definitely expect that one or both of them will finish in the Top 4 in the boys' 14," Race said.

In the boys' 18-and-under, Race said Heo will be the favorite.

"It would be a big upset if anyone will beat him, so I think the most important thing for him is to avoid being overconfident," Race said.

In the girls division, Race is also counting on POJC veteran Thea Minor.

"Thea has had so many excellent wins in the last couple of years. She will be somewhere

at the top of the heap this year and it would be really exciting for her, her family, and our tennis community if she wins the gold," Race said.

The CNMI mentor cautioned POJC favorites not to take the returning Johnson lightly. Johnson was selected on the team two years ago, but could not make it to Fiji, as she relocated in the mainland.

"Melody is very tough mentally and never to be counted out. She is a fighter and can definitely be somewhere in the Top 4," Race said.

For first-timers Theecel Mi-

nor and Fernandez, Race said the POJC is very important, as this will expose them to a top-level competition.

"They are both young and it will be important for them to play a lot of high level matches this year and gain experience," Race said.

The CNMI netters will play against the bets of the East (Samoa, American Samoa, Cook Islands, and Tonga players) and West (Fiji, Papua, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu) Pacific squads.

The POJC will run from Aug. 17 to 22.

FATHERS

From Page 28

All-Stars and are heading to the World Series this weekend?

They all learn to play baseball from their respective fathers.

Frankie Camacho, who plays at rightfield for the CNMI All-Stars said his father, Walter, taught him the basic of the sport when he was still in the fourth grade.

Walter turned out to be a good teacher, as his son became one of the best youth sluggers then

in Major League of the Saipan Little League Baseball and now in the Junior League, earning Frankie a slot on the CNMI Junior All-Stars.

Frankie and company won the 2009 CNMI District Tournament held on Saipan and then the Asia Pacific Regional Tournament in Jakarta, Indonesia to book a World Series ticket.

The CNMI bets will be leaving for Taylor, Michigan this Friday, as the World Series will run from Aug. 16 to 22.

In the World Series, Dela Cruz and Iguel, who both

credited their father, Ricardo, Sr., and Luis, respectively, for getting them involved with baseball, will be the team's utility players.

Both Kagman High School's students could play as pitchers, basemen, or outfielders.

Iguel and Dela Cruz agreed it doesn't matter what position you play in the game, as long as you worked well with your teammates.

"It's the teamwork that matters most in the World Series," Iguel said.

Dela Cruz added they also

have to enjoy the game to lessen the pressure during a high-level competition.

Although the competition is expected to be tighter in the World Series, Rabauliman still believes they have a strong chance to improve the CNMI's showing in its first five World Series trips.

The CNMI made it to the Junior League division of the World Series from 2001 to 2005 and had a combined record of 3-18, winning no more than one game in each World Series appearance.

Rabauliman plays shortstops for the CNMI and he thanked his father, Joe, for helping him play the most dynamic defensive position in baseball.

To Rabauliman's side is left-fielder Masaharu, who said his father, Poland Masaharu Sr. taught him how to play baseball, too, when he was still nine years old.

The younger Masaharu said he chose baseball over other sports, as he believed it is the best sport for best players, like his idol, Albert Pujols of the St. Louis Cardinals.

MBI

From Page 28

before finding the right men to down CPA-Accounting in the curtain-raiser, 80-64.

MBI led in the first half, 33-30, but could not pull away. In fact, CPA was the first one to have a breakaway when Ed Diaz, Kirk Schuler, and Leo Apelo teamed up in a third-quarter run.

Diaz's two free throws off an Ivan De Vero foul gave CPA-Accounting its biggest lead, 48-37, with 4:14 left in the third period. Diaz, and Apelo had seven points apiece and Schuler added four in CPA's 18-4 surge in a span of less than six minutes in the third canto.

Then just when things were falling apart for MBI, coach

Kitz Barja found the five players who brought the team back into the game. They were Bonbon Cadagat, Ivan De Vero, Bart Demapan, Art Trajano, and Junar Guiab.

Cadagat's triple from the top of the key sparked MBI's recovery and the team went on to have a 17-2 windup in the remaining four minutes of the third quarter to regain the driver's seat, 54-52.

Cadagat had nine points in that run with his breakaway reverse layup off Guiab's feed tying the game at 50-all, with less than a minute left in the third. Ivan De Vero also made a couple of shots, while Demapan, Trajano, and Guiab took charge in the defensive end besides drilling a basket apiece.

MBI picked up where it left off in the first few minutes of

the fourth period en route to a 16-point win. De Vero scored five straight points and Cadagat had six quick markers to match CPA's biggest lead, 63-52, in the 7:28 mark of the final canto.

CPA never came back, as Diaz was scoreless in the first seven minutes of the fourth and was held to a field goal and a free throw in the remaining part of the game. Apelo and Schuler were also limited to a charity each in the fourth, leaving K.C. Yangilmaw as the lone CPA player to make more than a field goal in the final canto.

Cadagat led MBI's debut win, firing 29 points, while De Vero chipped in 17. Trajano nailed 11.

Diaz finished with 16 points, while Chris Camacho contributed 12, and Schuler and Apelo had 10 apiece.

In the second game, Bobby Coldeen drilled four pressure-packed free throws to lift PSS to an 89-85 overtime win over Bank of Guam.

Leading by as much as 10 in the first half, 36-26, PSS was forced to play in overtime when Pete Iguel led Bank of Guam's recovery in the second half. Iguel scored BOG's last 10 points in the regulation to send the game into extra five minutes.

It was a close battle in overtime with Coldeen's free throws making the difference. His four free throws were the last four points of PSS. Gyles Ruluked, who finished with a team-high 21 points, also knocked down two crucial charities. Melvin Manibusan drilled six of his 11 markers in overtime to help PSS recover from a 75-57 debut loss

to IT&E.

First Game

MBI 80 – Cadagat 29, De Vero 17, Trajano 11, Guiab 8, Nonato 7, Demapan 4, Capalad 2, Cabrera 2.

CPA-Accounting 64 – Diaz 16, Camacho 12, Schuler 10, Apelo 10, Yangilmaw 8, Maranita 7, Kapileo 1.

Scoring by quarters: 19-14, 33-30, 54-52, 80-64.

Second Game

PSS 89 – Ruluked 21, Mendiola 14, Manibusan 11, Coldeen 10, Buniag 6, Aughenbaugh 6, Mendez 4, Cabrera 4, Cruz 2.

Bank of Guam 85 – Iguel 44, Joyner 16, D. Palacios 14, Taisacan 3, G. Palacios 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-13, 36-26, 50-43, 75-75 (regulation), 89-85 (OT).

ADVANCE

From Page 28

second and third base, Sakisat struck out fourth batter Cabrera. The top of the first ended with Secharmidal catching a line drive from Ned Norita.

At the bottom of the eighth inning, Sakisat singled, while basemen Manny Sablan was beaten to second. Secharmidal

was third at bat and wrapped up the match with his game-winning single.

Advance, which won the first qualifier against Kulan Zamu in June, was waiting for its finals foe last night. Two more playoff games were played last night to determine Advance's opponent.

The first playoff match was between SaiPal and Kulan Zamu with the winner set to duel Natibbu for the last finals seat.

The championship match was also scheduled last night with the X-Terminators having a twice-to-beat advantage.

SaiPal kept its finals bid alive after edging Pac Chain, 6-5.

Hector Efraim scored the winning run on pitcher Gloyd Martin's single at the bottom of the seventh inning.

Kulan Zamu had an easier time advancing to the playoff round, as it won via forfeiture

over Sokau 670.

The last finals berth in the second qualifier is crucial, as the winner of the slot will qualify to the Saipan leg of KOD. Advance had already gained the first ticket after ruling the first qualifier and is disqualified from getting one more, thus the other finalist is guaranteed a Saipan leg-KOD seat win or lose in last night's championship game.

The Saipan leg champion-

ship will be played on Oct. 17 and 18 with the winner advancing to the season finale of 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament. The grand finals is set on Saipan from Nov. 12 to 15 and will have the host battling qualifying teams from Guam, Palau, and Pohnpei.

For more information about KOD, contact Joey Dela Cruz at 483-4185.

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

GOVT/BIZ STANDINGS	
IT&E	1 0
Docomo	1 0
MBI	1 0
PSS	1 1
CPA	0 1
BOG	0 2
ARFF	0 0
DCCA	0 0
Tirian	0 0
CHC	0 0
Hyatt	0 0
Customs	0 0

Guam and Saipan Electronic Darts Association Tournament

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Team Saipan won the Guam Electronic Darts Association and Saipan Electronic Darts Association Friendly Tournament held last weekend.



Members of Team Guam pose for a group photo after the tournament.



Saipan MVP Jojo Guilas, left, and Guam MVP Chris Shields.



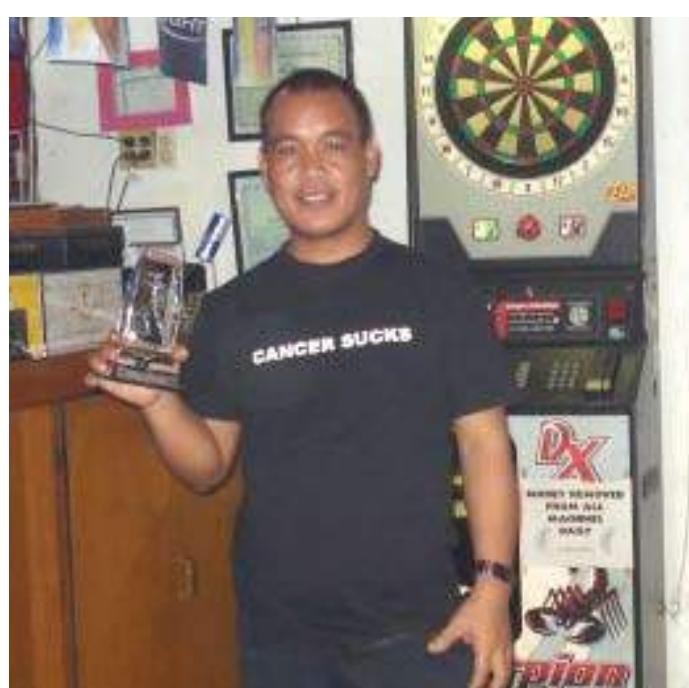
High-in winner Bill Santos of Guam shows his trophy.



Jun Visaya of Saipan holds the Top Gun trophy.



Blind Draw first placers Jun Olita, right, and Jeremy Larsen.



Romuel Chavez took the Sharp Shooter plum.



Blind Draw runners-up Chris Shields of Guam and Saipan's Warlee Ellama.



Blind Draw third placers Jimmy Tenepere, left, and Willie Cuesta.

25 riders cruise Naftan Express



The long-delayed 2009 Inaugural Naftan Express Ride was worth the wait, as 25 riders cruised to a dry and easy course last Saturday.

The long-delayed 2009 Inaugural Naftan Express Ride was worth the wait, as 25 riders cruised to a dry and easy course last Saturday.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

28 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

T'wolves pick Kurt Rambis as new coach

After years spent playing under Pat Riley and coaching under Phil Jackson, Kurt Rambis is finally getting a chance to run a team.

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CNMI netters leave for Fiji tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Tennis Team will leave tonight for Fiji to compete in the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships at the Goodman Fielder International Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka.

Jeff Race, who will be accompanying the team to Fiji, said the CNMI will have eight players participating in this year's POJC. They are sisters Thea and Theecel Minor, Jodel Fernandez, Rafael Jones, Christian Miller, Benjie Decena, and Melody Johnson.

Excluding Decena and Thea Minor, all five earned a trip to Fiji and will be representing the North Pacific Team after finishing in the Top 4 in the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in

See CNMI on Page 26

Rafael Jones, seen here in action in a local tournament early this year, trained in Australia for three weeks to prepare for the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Advance in finals of KOD qualifier, again

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Advance X-Terminators secured the first finals berth in the second qualifier for the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament after pulling off a 7-6

Advance X-Terminators' Roy Celis watches a low ball during their finals game against Kulau Zamu in the first KOD qualifier. The X-Terminators advanced to the finals for the second straight time after beating Natibu in the semis last Monday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

semis win over Natibu last Monday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Shortstop Oliver Secharmidal blasted the winning hit, as he made a single that drove leadoff batter Mel Sakisat home in the extra inning.

Earlier in the fifth inning, extra hitter Ben Cabrera had a two-run single to bring Natibu back into the game and tie the match, 6-all. Neither team scored in the last two innings, sending the game in extra inning.

At the top of the eighth inning, Natibu had several chances to break the deadlock, but Advance's defense held on. Natibu leadoff batter Henry Iguel was beaten to third and with runners on

See ADVANCE on Page 26

Fathers are best teachers for CNMI youth sluggers



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

First of a three-part series

What else do Jeremy Rabauliman, Lamarc Iguel, Ricardo Dela Cruz Jr., Poland Masaharu Jr., and Frankie Camacho have in common besides them being members of the CNMI Junior

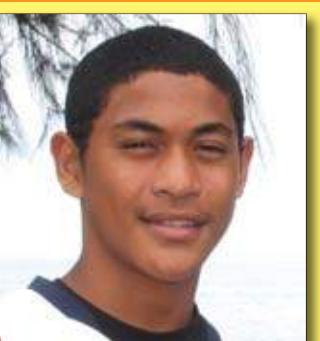
See FATHERS on Page 26



Name: Frankie Camacho
Age: 13
Parents: Michelle and Walter Macaranas
School: Marianas High School
Favorite Team: Yankees
Favorite Player: Carl Crawford



Name: Lamarc Iguel
Age: 14
Parents: Marina and Luis Iguel
School: Kagman High School
Favorite Team: CNMI
Favorite Player: Alex Rodriguez



Name: Jeremy Rabauliman
Age: 13
Parents: Joe and Mercedes Rabauliman
School: Saipan Southern High School
Favorite Team: Red Sox
Favorite Player: Hanley Ramirez



Name: Poland Masaharu Jr.
Age: 13
Parents: Poland Masaharu Sr. and Martha Kintol
School: Marianas High School
Favorite Team: Yankees
Favorite Player: Albert Pujols



Name: Ricardo Dela Cruz Jr.
Age: 14
Parents: Ricardo and Teresita Dela Cruz
School: Kagman High School
Favorite Team: Fielders
Favorite Players: Lamarc Iguel, Alan Agon